Highlights

- As of July 26, over one million COVID-19 cases in the region (1,194,101) was reached. Of these, 939,757 recovered (78.7%) and 31,811 died (2.7%). The first cases were reported 2 February in Iran and since, all countries in the MENA region have reported cases.

- To date, over 238 million people have been reached on COVID-19 prevention, close to 29 million engaged through social media and dialogue with community mobilisers and volunteers, and over 560,000 have provided feedback via community response mechanisms.

- UNICEF also reached under 12 million people with critical WASH supplies, more than 82,500 healthcare workers received personal protective equipment (PPEs), and over 7,500 people have been trained in infection prevention & control (IPC).

- UNICEF has supported access to healthcare and nutrition services to under 4.7 million women and children, as well as trained over 7,500 individuals in detecting, referring and managing cases. Over 1.7 million caregivers have also been reached with messages on breastfeeding, and around 162,000 children have received SAM treatment.

- In terms of access to continuous education, UNICEF to date has reached nearly 3.5 million children with distance learning, supported Ministries of Education in undertaking 2019-2020 final exam and is helping governments prepare for the new school year to include a regional webinar, and a plan of action covering teacher preparedness and IPC training among other themes.

- As to the provision of alternative care arrangements, nearly 13,000 individuals have been served, while UNICEF community based MHPSS has reached over 225,000 children, parents and primary caregivers. Moreover, over 3,000 UNICEF personnel and partners have completed GBV related training while over 1,250,000 children and adults have been granted access to PSEA channels.

- To date, under 10,500 households have received a humanitarian cash grant, and under 12 million households have benefited from new or additional social assistance measures, as part of UNICEF’s support to governments’ expansion of shock responsive social protection programs.

Situation in Numbers

- COVID-19 cases: 1,194,101 cases. 222,533 active cases
- Death toll: 31,811 deaths
- 51,000 children at risk of dying because of disruption of health services
- US$215.52 million funding gap for UNICEF regional response

Summary of Program Response Targets

- Access to essential health services: 63%
- Distance/home-based learning: 47%
- Mental Health & Psychosocial support: 51%
- Additional social assistance measures: 57%
- WASH supplies: 100%
- People reached through messaging: 92%

Funding Status (US$)

- Funding Gap: $141.37M
- Funding Received: $26.52M
Situation Overview

The first cases of COVID-19 in the MENA region were reported early February in Iran. The situation among countries varies greatly - group of countries having managed to flatten the epidemic curve when others are witnessing a new increase of cases in the wake of easing of lockdowns. Concerns are high for countries such as Yemen and Sudan where uncontrolled transmission affects populations that are already vulnerable due to pre-existing fragile humanitarian contexts.

Over one million cases in the region (1,194,101 as of July 26) was reached. Of these, 939,757 (78.7%) recovered and 31,811 (2.7%) died. The majority of new cases in the region come from Iran (19.5%), Iraq (19.6%) and Saudi Arabia (18%). Weekly fatalities in the MENA region are stabilized around 3,000 deaths, suggesting a potential positive impact of the measures put in place to protect the more vulnerable. However, the situation is not equal everywhere and the lack of compliance with the preventive measure lead to worrisome situations. Iraq continues to report 17,500 cases and about 500 deaths per week. Fatalities in Iran have increased 42% in four weeks. The epidemic is uncontrolled in 25 provinces, including Tehran. The capacity of the health system to cope with the increased number of severe cases has reached its limits and the re-establishment of field hospitals is envisaged.

The situation is also changing in other countries such as Palestine that recorded a spike of cases following the lifting of restrictions. In Lebanon, the detection of large clusters of cases among health workers, may lead to a rebound of cases in the community and the country has started to put measures in place once again. Morocco (2,600), Algeria (4,273), Libya (756) and Syria (154) also recorded their highest cases toll last week. If the preventive measures are not well respected, particularly with the population movements expected during the summer, the situation can deteriorate in the coming weeks. To date, Jordan and Tunisia have successfully avoided large outbreaks.

Weekly active cases (total – deaths – recovered) in the MENA region – 9 March to 26 July

Socio-Economic Impact and Humanitarian Needs

As the pandemic unfolded and containment and lockdown measures were put in place by countries in the MENA region, negative socio-economic impacts started to become visible towards mid to end of March, affecting every country in the region – ranging from a rapid slowdown of economic growth to increasing unemployment and poverty. The IMF’s latest analysis (July 2020) forecasts economic growth in the region to be -4.7 per cent on average, with some countries (e.g: Lebanon, Iraq and Morocco) particularly hard-hit. Thus, several governments are designing economic stimulus and social protection interventions for the most vulnerable, although those are being limited by macroeconomic and fiscal constraints coupled with the collapse in gas and oil prices. To meet urgent balance of payments financing needs, some countries are receiving emergency financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), including for instance Egypt. Since the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and in the past weeks, some countries have started easing or lifting restrictions and lockdown measures, notably across the Gulf, Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Iran, showing a gradual restarting of economic activity.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) estimated in April that the crisis may plunge an additional 8.3 million people into poverty in the region. The annual April Global Report on Food Crises 2020 highlights that COVID-19 may lead to a new food crises or worsening existing ones, especially in conflict affected countries (20% of global number of people in crisis or worse are in the region, namely in Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Syrians in Lebanon and Turkey, Iraq, State of Palestine), with major negative impacts on the quantity, frequency and diversity of food consumed by children. According to global estimations produced by UNICEF and Save the Children over 2020, the number of children living in monetary poverty in MENA is expected to grow by 7 million, from 41 to 48 million children.
Moreover - and based on the Johns Hopkins models - WHO and UNICEF have warned that an additional 51,000 children under the age of five might die in the region by the end of 2020, if the current disruption of essential health and nutrition services is protracted and malnutrition among children increases, representing a near 40 per cent increase relative to the same period last year. MENA regional directors from UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO issued a joint statement calling on Governments and partners to address the availability, access and affordability of safe and nutritious foods, while implementing the necessary health, prevention and control measures.

While the pandemic brought an abrupt halt to some anti-government protests in the region, the likelihood of renewed social tensions in some countries persists, specifically countries with pre-existing economic and financial crises, as highlighted in a report of The Economist intelligence unit.

As most countries began to put in place lockdown measures, communication efforts were needed to address the new realities for families with regards to limited access to essential services and supplies, and closure of public spaces, workplace and schools. Addressing overall health as well as mental health, coping with lockdown measures and providing psychosocial support became critical. Coupled with growing fatigue and frustration with prevention measures, as well as lowering risk perceptions among people particularly in contexts with ongoing conflict or civil unrest, there are high concerns that practices of prevention behaviours will not be sustained and there may be a rapid and major resurgence of COVID-19 cases.

All schools closed in or around the month of March affecting students and school-aged children in the 20 countries of the MENA region; over 110 million children and youth on top of the 15 million children who were already out of school. This number includes the 1.3 million Syrian refugees enrolled in formal and non-formal education in the five refugee-hosting countries. Governments were quick to offer alternative options through online platforms, televised lessons and/or distribution of print materials. Schools are now preparing for reopening for the next school year 2020/2021 in September or October. In MENA Region 14 countries have announced dates for reopening of schools and in 2 countries, schools partially re-opened in June/July for high stake exam classes and catch up programs. Most schools will not open as normal due to physical distancing measures, limited capacity of schools to provide a safe environment (almost half of the schools do not have adequate water and sanitation facilities for students and teachers) and the possibility of a second wave. A hybrid approach to teaching and learning, combining face-to-face instruction and home-based learning, will most likely be applied for the coming school year. In addition, due to the economic impact of the COVID-19, children from vulnerable families are at risk of not coming back to school and reverting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour or marriage, as they need to support their families.

With regards to child protection and GBV, evidences are showing an increase of domestic violence and violence against children related COVID-19 and subsequent confinement measures. A rapid assessment in Lebanon has found that since the spread of COVID-19 and a subsequent reduction in face-to-face services, 57 per cent of women and girls reported feeling less safe in their communities and 44 per cent of women and girls surveyed reported feeling less safe in their homes. Findings also indicated that 54 per cent reported observing an increase in harassment, violence or abuse against women and girls in their household or community. Importantly, a significant majority of women and girls surveyed have reported that they knew where and how to seek assistance if they felt unsafe or were subjected to violence during lockdown, yet, one in three reported difficulties in accessing services remotely, due to their limited access to communication means, feeling unsafe talking on the phone, and denial of access by their partners or family members. UNICEF across MENA continues to advocate for GBV services to be considered essential and thus more available beyond remote service provision while seeking ways to make digital platforms safer and more accessible for women and girls.

Aiming to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in places of derivations of liberty, most governments in the MENA region (15 out of 20) have put in place measures to release children; however, the challenge has been to support their reintegration given reduced social services. In addition, these measures often do not benefit those detained in the context of national security and those in immigration detention. Mobility restrictions, economic impact on labour markets and COVID-19 control measures have resulted in reduced access to services for children on the move, and in certain cases – in detention and deportation – further exacerbating pre-existing protection concerns.

Health systems have been under unprecedented stress. Countries in the regions are trying to grasp the situation of maternal, new-born, and child health service coverage in collaboration with Ministries of Health using the regular reporting system. However, the number of pregnant women who attended antenatal care is reported to have reduced by 10-30 per cent comparing to the same month last year in several countries. Similar trends have also been observed for other PHC service coverage. Fear of contagion when visiting health facilities has led to a fall in the demand for and subsequent use of services. Nutrition services have also been negatively affected, particularly in Syria, Sudan and Yemen, as UNICEF estimates that the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) may increase between 5-10 per cent in the next few months. Immunization campaigns have slowed and those against polio and measles have particularly been affected putting nearly 15 million children at risk of missing life-saving vaccines.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Since the start of the response, UNICEF has collaborated closely with governments, WHO and other UN partners as well as civil society partners to reach and inform families and communities about COVID symptoms and modes of transmission, as well as risk reduction and infection prevention practices. Coordination mechanisms and national RCCE plans and strategies have been rapidly developed and evidence in the form of rapid assessments have been conducted to inform these strategies. The power and reach of mass and social media channels such as TV, radio, phone-based messaging as well as through various social media channels and online apps, have been leveraged to address rumors, misinformation, disinformation, anxiety and panic. Further, key social influencers and community gatekeepers such as media celebrities, youth role models, health specialists, medical staff, religious, community and political leaders have been mobilized to promote prevention behaviors and general health and wellbeing measures, and address stigma. Over 238 million people have been reached at least once on COVID prevention messaging, and close to 29 million engaged through social media-based interactions and dialogue with community-based mobilisers and volunteers. Over 560,000 people have had their concerns and feedback recorded and addressed through a variety of community response mechanisms including hotline numbers, U-Report, and queries and complaints shared with frontline workers.

In the current context with deconfinement measures in place, countries are stepping up campaigns to reinforce prevention behaviors focusing on the use of masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene. In Lebanon, public advocacy efforts have been stepped up by UN partners and the government through press releases, outreach to new partners, and targeted approaches in areas with cluster cases. In Palestine and Libya, media messaging is being augmented with outdoor campaigns in high population density areas to serve as reminders for people to practice behaviors. In Tunisia, additional and targeted campaigns are being planned in collaboration with government. In Sudan and Syria, on-ground community engagement is being accelerated through training of partners for cascading to sub-national frontline staff. In many countries such as Sudan and Lebanon, messaging efforts are being complemented by distribution of masks.

At the regional level, UNICEF MENARO has been collaborating closely with WHO EMRO to establish and co-lead the region’s first inter-agency EM/MENA RCCE working group along with other partners – IFRC, UN Women, UNFPA, IOM, UNDP, American University of Beirut, UNHCR, UNESCO and others. A senior level UNICEF staff member with C4D expertise has been seconded to WHO EMRO to support the strengthening of evidence generation, RCCE technical approaches and partner coordination across the region. A number of joint initiatives are underway that include joint mapping, progress monitoring, training and development of regional guidance and standards.

In ensuring learning continuity, UNICEF supported remote learning in all MENA countries, reaching nearly 3.5 million children by the end of July. It specifically helped Governments and partners produce and disseminate e-learning modules and educational broadcast materials for radio, TV and online platforms, as well as guidance for parents in supporting learning and stimulating activities for their children at home. Moreover, UNICEF supported Ministries of Education in undertaking final exams of the 2019/2020 school year, either online or in schools, including in Egypt, Jordan, State of Palestine and Syria.

UNICEF is also supporting governments prepare for the new school year 2020/2021, in line with the Global Framework for Reopening Schools. In this regard, a regional webinar with 14 Ministries of Education and partners was co-hosted with UNESCO to plan for the reopening of schools. Further, a regional plan of action was developed, focusing on guidelines for schools, teacher preparedness trainings including IPC in schools, community awareness raising campaigns and specific interventions targeting children at risk of not returning to school or dropping out. For instance, in Iraq, UNICEF is developing a learning model for 12,600 IDP children in Ninewa and Erbil Governorates, blending home-based learning with classroom education. It includes the development of adapted curricula, catch-up sessions, community learning facilitation, safe school protocols and trainings for teachers. In Algeria, the disinfection of over 2,500 exam centres is underway, reaching 420,000 pupils. Early childhood centres in Algeria and Djibouti are being opened. Support is being prepared for catch-up programmes in many countries to address both the learning/skills that were missed and might have been forgotten during the prolonged periods of school closure.

UNICEF has also ensured continuity of access to essential health care and nutrition services to under 4.7 million women and children. UNICEF more recently launched a ‘jumpstart package’ for countries showing declines in utilization of services, consisting of bundled interventions that prioritize services, optimize delivery platforms and training on IPC in PHC for PHC workers, community health workers and volunteers.

UNICEF’s evidence-based advocacy on the indirect impact of COVID on disruption of essential health care and nutrition services continued with a joint communication from the Regional Directors of UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA to Ministers of Health of MENA countries, urging implementation of the jumpstart package of services. This joint communication was to solicit and ensure support on reinforcing ongoing efforts in the countries to continue maternal, neonatal and child health services in communities, and primary/ referral levels. Restoring community trust in public health services continues as a core priority for UNICEF’s work in MENA and health workers capacity on IPC as well inter-personal communication with beneficiaries and engagement with the communities they come from is being strengthened with roll out of trainings targeting PHC workers with 7,509 health workers having been trained across all MENA countries until the end of July. Progress is already being seen on the ground with start of immunization campaigns with these
enhanced measures in Yemen and Syria that has enabled 2,127,573 children to be protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

As to nutrition services, over 1.7 million caregivers have been reached with messages on breastfeeding to date and around 162,000 children ages 6-59 months have been admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). This includes adapting service delivery to the COVID-19 context by reducing the number of visits by families or increasing the provision of therapeutic foods. Simplified protocols for treatment of SAM are being considered in countries like Syria and Yemen, such as trainings for mother-led mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screenings.

UNICEF reached under 12 million people across 12 countries with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene kits, soap and hand sanitizers), more than 82,500 healthcare workers received PPEs (incl. gloves and masks) in eleven countries and trained over 7,500 people in IPC as part of its first phase. The procurement and delivery of WASH supplies has been very much at the forefront of the response in Egypt (supplies to primary health care centres reaching 2,400,000 people) and Syria (reaching 7,946,085 people). The provision of PPE has been a priority in Egypt since the start of the outbreak, as UNICEF delivered more than 500,000 gloves, 200,000 surgical masks, 2,000 N95 masks, 88,740 gowns in support to MoHP (cumulatively 56,002 health workers). IPC training has been critical in Sudan, with UNICEF training 1,433 health workers. Yet, the delivery of emergency supplies has been a challenge. In order to minimize supply lead times, offices are coordinating with the Shipping Department in UNICEF’s Supply Division on the consolidation of cargo from the hub in Shanghai for forecasted supplies and identifying local and regional manufacturers to produce masks and gowns.

Significant progress in child protection and GBV services has also taken place since the start of the epidemic up to the end of July. In terms of the provision of alternative care arrangements in the case of children without parental or family care, under 13,000 children have been served, the majority of which being in Sudan. As to community-based mental health and psychosocial support – both remote and in-person and via a mix of communication channels, including the U-Report WhatsApp platform – UNICEF has reached 225,334 children, parents and primary caregivers across all countries. Moreover, over 3,000 UNICEF personnel and partners have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, while over 125,000 children and adults have been granted access to safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse. Across the region UNICEF has supported inter-agency GBV assessments to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and inform adequate responses. Also, the release or process of release of children deprived of liberty continues in 15 countries, with more than over 3,000 children released since the start of the pandemic. Across the region – particularly in Lebanon and in Gulf Countries – an increased participation of UNICEF in partnerships and initiatives addressing protection concerns of migrants has been observed.

UNICEF has supported a significant expansion of social cash transfer responses to cushion the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 across MENA, including in humanitarian contexts. UNICEF has engaged governments – including in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon – with advocacy as well as operational support on program design and delivery. This included technical support on targeting (e.g. Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon) as well as helping advise and/or set-up rapid registration/verification systems (e.g. Iraq) as well as payment systems (e.g. Jordan) and grievance redressal mechanisms (e.g. Morocco, Jordan). UNICEF has also provided emergency cash transfers (ECT) to 10,500 households in Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco and under 12 million households benefited from new or additional social assistance measures throughout the region. In Yemen in June and July, 1.43 million ECT beneficiaries received a one-time COVID-19 top-up, almost doubling their benefit level. While these efforts helped cushion the immediate socio-economic stress on families and children, UNICEF is increasingly focused on leveraging these gains and lessons to strengthen national social protection systems to be more resilient to shocks and providing effective support to affected families in a sustainable manner.

UNICEF Country Offices Programme Response

In each country where it has presence, UNICEF intensified its support to the COVID-19 response as follows:

**Algeria**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Over 3000 (76% girls, 24% boys) from the 48 wilayas (districts) participated in the nationwide contest on child rights in the COVID context since its start in June. On 15 July, UNICEF in collaboration with the National Body of Protection and Promotion of Childhood (ONPPE) announced the 65 award winners of the contest and leveraged the occasion to emphasize mental health and psychosocial support for children and adolescents.
- In the reporting period, UNICEF has reached over 26 million people and engaged close to 270,000 followers through its social media messaging on safe practices, parenting, and stigma.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF provided 10,000 PPE items (including surgical masks, protective gowns, etc.) to the Ministry of Health to support health professionals.
Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF provided IT equipment (hard drives) to the Ministry of Health to support the development of remote data collection and computerization of health information system. This will facilitate detection and follow up of COVID-19 contact cases at local level which helps decision-making and allows health authorities to map information collected in real time in order to carry out response and epidemiological surveillance activities (home confinement, treatment, clinical evolution and lockdown in high incidence areas).

Djibouti
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- 134,902 additional people were reached and 85,829 were engaged through social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram) messaging on addressing barriers to behavior change. In addition, an on-going partnership with national NGO, Djibouti Women Initiative has helped to engage 58 youth and reach 696 more people through WhatsApp messaging.
- UNICEF is strengthening its evidence generation efforts linked to COVID-19. Collaboration with telecommunications operators has been initiated to establish RapidPro for improved data collection on the COVID-19 response as well as regular feedback from beneficiaries. A COVID-19 KAP related survey is under design and discussion with the National Institution of Statistics and Demography (INSD) and the Ministry of Health.
- A hackathon was launched on COVID-19 as part of the national risk communication and community engagement plan. UNICEF and WHO are partnering to develop a COVID-19 telethon which will be launched shortly.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- The on-going partnership with CARITAS is providing alternative care to vulnerable children (street children, children on the move, children unaccompanied and/or separated) with food assistance, hygiene kits, health care and family reunification services.
- Continued partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is sustaining support to refugees’ children with psychosocial support as well as helping family placement for unaccompanied and/or separated children.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- A total of 760 migrants were reached with WASH services in the quarantine camp in Ali Sabieh;
- A total of 237 handwashing stations with soap were set up in several public areas in Djibouti city and surroundings.
- Completion of the rehabilitation of 5 water points within the migrants corridor to improve access to safe drinking water for migrants’ as well as host communities and provide means for practicing handwashing with soap as a prevention to COVID-19 transmission.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- The adaptation of health and nutrition services delivery in the COVID-19 context and intensive awareness raising to build people’s confidence to return to health facilities is ongoing.

Social protection and social sector financing

- A total of 1,200 vulnerable families were reached with the emergency (3-month) cash transfer system set up by the government to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Egypt
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- To mark the global Early Childhood Development (ECD) parenting month in June, UNICEF launched #EarlyMomentsMatter, a mini campaign for two weeks which focused on the importance of engaging with children during lockdown. The campaign reached 3.4 million users and engaged 220,000 until its completion in early July.
- Under the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), a joint inter-agency Masks & Stigma campaign was launched in July in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) alongside with two videos on how to wear medical and fabric masks. The campaign has reached 2.7 million users and engaged 202,000.
- UNICEF supported MoHP in reaching an additional 103,000 families with interactive counselling and guidance services on health and nutrition best practices for pregnant and lactating mothers within the COVID-19 context. Using the MoHP 1000 Days Facebook page, an average rate of post engagement of 30,404 was achieved during the reporting period.

1 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 campaigns, the total number of people reached through messaging on COVID-19 is 53,071,190 and total number of people engaged through RCCE actions is 2,548,399
• In partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) to engage with girls and boys on positive gender roles and maintain healthy practices during COVID-19, a total of 89,056 girls and boys were reached and 5,595 were engaged through the National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative’s Facebook Page (Dawwie).
• In partnership with WHO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, and IOM, UNICEF supported MOHP to conduct a rapid Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices assessment. Overall, 22,682 respondents participated in the survey that included web-surveys and community interviews by health educators at governorate level. 19,153 participants completed the web survey and 3,529 were successfully interviewed. An additional 607 participants from migrant communities in Egypt were also surveyed. Key findings are being analyzed for dissemination and to inform upcoming efforts.
• UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) in reaching 41,328 most vulnerable families through an interactive exercise on COVID delivered via RapidPro. Close to 11,500 households completed the exercise.
• A webinar for service providers on parenting during COVID-19 has been tested with social workers from NGOs, and multi-media content on parenting during COVID-19 reached 12,205 persons through the NCCM dedicated Facebook page.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services
• UNICEF and the implementing partners reached 16,084 children, parents and primary caregivers with community based mental health and psychosocial support.
• UNICEF reached 98 UNICEF personnel and partners, who have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including for sexual exploitation and abuse.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
• In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF procured and delivered to the MOHP warehouse additional 12,000 liters of chlorine (60,000 liters in total), disinfectants supply were provided to 3,200 primary health care centers nationwide, with an estimated coverage of 2,400,000 people.
• Since the start of the outbreak, UNICEF has procured and delivered more than 500,000 gloves, 200,000 surgical masks, 2,000 N95 masks, 88,740 gowns in support to MoHP. During this reporting period, UNICEF procured and delivered additional 918,000 gloves, 54,000 gowns and 988,000 surgical masks for the health facilities nationwide enough to protect additional 7,714 health providers (cumulatively 56,002 health workers).
• A total number of 9,955 persons and children received hygiene kits (1,998 community schools’ students in Assiut, Upper Egypt and 1,608 refugees’ families in Greater Cairo and Alexandria benefitting around 7,957 children) ²

Continuity of health care services for women and children
• At the request of the MOHP, UNICEF facilitated 26 online trainings for 2,142 managers and health professionals, including training of 427 health staff on infection prevention and control and training of 283 health staff on the new protocol of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses.
• An estimated 39,301 caregivers of children aged 0-23-months³ received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages through social media and community platforms (cumulative 208,648 caregivers).
• An estimated 151,282 women and children⁴ received essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities (107,170 children benefitted from immunization and growth monitoring, while 12,841 women benefitted from post-natal services and 31,271 from antenatal care).

Social protection and social sector financing
• UNICEF in collaboration with the public opinion research agency Basera, completed the first round of a phone survey on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on households, with a specific focus on children. The survey is conducted in multiple rounds, diversifying the topics, and aims to provide evidence to inform the national and UNICEF programmatic response to the COVID-19 crisis. The preliminary results of the first round (around 1,600 interviews) show that 70% of adult Egyptians knew about the availability of e-learning facilities; 4 in 5 households reported a decrease in household income, 3 in 5 reported decrease in expenditure mainly on items on food and clothing, when compared to pre-Covid-19 period. Also, 1 in 5 of those working before, were unemployed at the time of survey.
• UNICEF has jointly developed with the Ministry of Finance a snapshot infographic of the GoE’s budget allocation to respond to the crisis. The MoF-UNICEF transparency brief, a related video and an infographic have been completed and uploaded to UNICEF Website.
• The government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfer program (TKP) has added 68,200 families, since May, showing the continued efforts to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19. UNICEF provided technical support in this process by seconding a senior social protection advisor to MoSS, who leads and coordinates the overall operations/expansion of the TKP.

² On average five members per family
³ An estimated total of 208,648 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months were reached since the beginning of the response.
⁴ A total of 683,479 women and children received essential services through UNICEF support since the beginning of the response.
Gulf Area (Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- UNICEF in collaboration with the Community Development Authority (CDA) and Ministry of Education (MOE) launched a social media campaign and outreach effort entitled, “Safe Summer” for children, adolescents, caregivers and families. Through booklets, stories and interactive games, the initiative aims to raise awareness on nutrition, physical activity, hygiene practices, mental health and well-being, and child protection in the context of COVID-19. Messages and materials are being disseminated within public and private schools across the UAE through the MOE’s digital platform, community clubs and centers as well as facilities for persons with disabilities. This latest collaboration builds on ongoing partnership established earlier, to develop a Child Rights Education Kit addressing three age cohorts that will be used during the upcoming academic year.
- UNICEF, UNESCO, ISESCO and Mohammed Bin Rashid Global Initiatives launched a new joint awareness initiative providing educational messages in Arabic. Through 15 animated videos, the campaign targets children aged 5 to 15 in the UAE and the wider region, with basic information about COVID-19 prevention, e-learning and mental health. The videos are being shared by the 4 partners, media partners and influencers through various social media networks.
- UNICEF GAO in KSA, ESCWA, UNDP and UNFPA jointly prepared a technical orientation on hotline service provision in support of the National Family Safety Programme (NFSP), the leading NGO on child protection. The webinar, attended by 250 service providers from the social workforce, offered an overview of technical guidance in the context of COVID-19, summarized emerging good practice from the region, and showcased the NFSP’s own experiences in operating the Child Helpline as well as emerging gaps requiring technical support. Recommendations included the need for procedural guidelines to respond to crisis situations more effectively. The webinar is a part of a series of technical exchanges

Iran

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The UNICEF-MOH online psychosocial support campaign for children, adolescents and parents, expanded its reach through partnership with private sector donors, municipalities around the country, news agencies as well as national TV, and the recently re-launched UNICEF YouTube and Apart (Iranian YouTube) channels. Furthermore, during the reporting period, 10 new videos on parenting were broadcasted in all provinces of Iran through national TV: 89 branches of the Saman Bank in eight major cities including, Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Qom, Tabriz, Yazd and Karaj; and UNICEF supported adolescent wellbeing clubs in seven cities.
- UNICEF initiated advocacy for the second generation of RCCE programs. Aligned to this, MOH nutrition department approved a campaign on healthy eating as well as breastfeeding during COVID-19, in partnership with MCLSW, UNICEF expanded outreach to street children, disseminating COVID-19 messages among 15,000 street children, accompanied with a brief training, through local NGOs.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of the Interior launched a nation-wide art competition for children and adolescent on impact of COVID-19, reaching 1.5 million children across the country so far. UNICEF also supported adolescent wellbeing clubs to conduct a rapid needs and perception assessment to inform a participatory COVID-19 prevention campaign for adolescents on high risk behaviors.
- During the reporting period 50 new online materials were disseminated through UNICEF and partner channels. 16,467,020 people were reached (39% Female) and 2,721,506 people were engaged. Through COVID messaging, UNICEF’s Instagram followers increased to 242,000.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- UNICEF continued supporting SWO, MoH, Ministry of Sport and Youth (MOSY) and Prisons Organization for provision of psychosocial support to 1,108 children in detention, 197 incarcerated mothers, 1,500 children in family-based foster care settings, 1,450 adolescents and youth and 380 parents.
- Standard package on parenting during/after COVID-19 is being developed in collaboration with SWO and MoH. Following the request of the Prisons’ organization.

Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF has finalized a proposal in collaboration with MCLSW, targeting 42,200 households, including about 84,700 children, with the two objectives of improving health, nutrition and education of children under 18 years old in deprived areas, and reducing the negative socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 through cash transfers and in-kind transfers. Targeted households in three selected provinces are those with children and multiple deprivations who are in the three lowest income deciles. In addition to being a COVID-19 red province, the criteria for selecting the three provinces were diversity and density of population consisting of different socioeconomic households with different aspects of child multidimensional poverty, legal and illegal migrant households, diversity in access to social supports, diversity in access to different infrastructure and also impact by other natural or economic crises.
Iraq

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- A “Fact or Fiction” media series was produced based on recommendations from the Rumors and Misinformation RCCE subgroup and feedback received from the Iraqi public on issues of concern. Disseminated through social media platforms, the series reached over 5 million and engaged 141,000 people.
- To-date, 34,177 young people (1,198 offline and 32,979 online) have lead peer-to-peer activities through UNICEF-supported Civil Society Organizations and Directories of Youth in north, centre and south. This also includes young people who engaged digitally through the U-Report COVID-19 chatbot. Additionally, mobile network partner Asiacell broadcast U-Report messages reaching 3.5 million subscribers across Iraq.
- UNICEF supported stakeholders in the child protection sector to access information on addressing vulnerabilities and risks of infection to COVID-19. Through them and during the reporting period, 10,805 children (6,230 girls and 4,575 boys) and 4,040 adults (2,111 women and 1,929 men) were reached with prevention messages.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- The Government of Iraq continued to release children from detention in the wake of COVID-19 crisis. 40 children (36 boys and 4 girls) were released from detention over the past two weeks. This brings the total number of children released from pre/post-trial detention since the start of COVID-19 pandemic to 360 (36 girls).
- UNICEF continued to provide CP Services to vulnerable children despite the lockdowns and movement restrictions imposed by Government due to COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period 6,029 children (3,069 girls and 2,960 boys) received Psychosocial support services, while 1,560 children (766 girls and 794 boys) received case management support, delivered through remote online or in-person methods.
- UNICEF supported case management services to 101 beneficiaries (62 women/38 girls/1 boy) using GBV sub cluster tailored remote service modalities, in-person and home visits. In addition, 1,221 individuals (750 women, 292 girl, 137 boys, 42 men) received individual or group psychosocial services while 3204 individuals (1170 women, 647 girls, 822 boys and 565 men) were reached with community trainings and awareness-raising sessions, promoting GBV prevention and safer environment for women and girls. 127 GBV service providers (94 women and 33 men) were trained on GBV Risk Mitigation and response services. In addition, 68 UNICEF staff from different sections were trained on Prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). A U-Report COVID-19 GBV and VAC myth-buster quiz was sent to 43,197 U-reporters, with 5,692 opting to participate and receive further information.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- The first training of Master Trainers for IPC was launched with 157 staff trained. This includes 132 from MOH (IPC: PHC; EPI: Nutrition; MNH & HP focal persons), and 25 staff from UNICEF & WHO country offices. These Master Trainers will be able to support departments of health to organize cascade online session/s at the DOH level on the new packages for the District Team. From each District 6 staff will be trained to be able to organize face to face sessions at the Primary Health Care Centres. The partnership with Karbala university to support health workers and clients in health care facilities continues. A shipment of 10,000 locally produced hand sanitizers, 10,000 disinfectants and 20,000 toilet soaps were distributed to 10 health institutions in Karkh and Rusafa bank within Baghdad, Basrah, Kerbala and Najaf.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

The below support was given to the following health and nutrition services:

- 24,090 children 6-59 months were screened with MUAC for growth (IDPs/Refugee camps).
- 325 SAM cases were identified and referred for treatment to the NRCs (IDPs/Refugee camps).
- 684 MAM cases were identified and received proper treatment management (IDPs/Refugee camps).
- 11,174 mothers of children <23 months were reached with IYCF messages (IDPs/Refugee camps).
- 454,722 children U1 were vaccinated with Measles (UNICEF 10 focused governorates).
- 14,444 women received/benefited from ANC/PNC visits (UNICEF 10 focused governorates)

Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF and ILO met with the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and Director Generals for Social Assistance and Social Protection to present a concept note jointly developed by UNICEF-WFP-ILO on how to “catalyze more effective social protection response in the short-term and support Iraq to accelerate reform”. This is an effort to ensure that the short-term emergency (social protection) responses are contributing to an effort to ensure a stronger and more shock-responsive social protection system. The three agencies are engaging with the European Union in this endeavor.
- Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs continued the disbursement of emergency cash transfer. Of a total of 2.1 million households registered and assessed as eligible, disbursement of benefits reached an additional 300,000 households bringing the total to 1,200,000 households. UNICEF Iraq provided technical advice for the setup of the cash transfer, helping to identify modality of registration and benefit levels, as well as the development of evidence to guide targeting and eligibility criteria.
The Ministry of Planning, UNICEF, and World Bank launched the Assessment of COVID-19 on Poverty and Vulnerability. The study examines the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on monetary poverty as well as multidimensional vulnerability in terms of access to social services and residence to shocks. The event included discussion of policy pointers with focus on scaling up social protection to those most affected and maintaining and promoting access to basic services for the poor. Children and adolescents are the most affected with 2 out of 5 living in monetary poverty and 1 in 2 deprived in more than on dimensions of (education, health, living conditions, and financial security).

Jordan
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- The national COVID-19 campaign, with UNICEF support, reached more than three million people through social media platforms, one million people daily through TV channels, and 2.6 million people through five radio stations. In response, an outdoor media campaign has been initiated with banners over bridges, and 190,000 posters and 160,000 stickers have been posted in high density public spaces throughout Jordan, including ministries, UN and partner agencies, gas stations, and private sector locations.
- UNICEF and partners disseminated COVID-19 risk mitigation and hygiene information through 243 WhatsApp messaging groups, reaching 7,768 individuals (31 % female) in refugee camps and host communities.
- Stories package developed for children under ten years of age to provide age-appropriate messages on COVID-19. Related messages and interactive materials have been disseminated through UNICEF Jordan’s YouTube channel and across UNICEF and partners’ social media accounts.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services
- A total of 9,335 children (57 % girls) and 1,404 adults (65 % female) 6 received community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Makani centers, specialized case management services, and helpline support, implemented in partnership with the Jordan River Foundation.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- In Za’atari camp, UNICEF completed blanket distributions of soap bars, benefiting over 76,200 refugees (50 per cent female), and in Azraq camp, UNICEF distributed cleaning kits to an estimated 36,055 refugees (50 per cent female) and financial assistance for the procurement of menstrual hygiene items for females. In King Abdullah Park (KAP) camp, soap bars and hand sanitizers were supplied for 600 residing refugees (50 per cent female).
- UNICEF increased the average combined supply of water from 5.7 million to 6.5 million litres daily in Azraq, Za’atari, and KAP refugee camps to meet increased water demand to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 and due to rising temperatures. For similar reasons, in the Rukban settlement, UNICEF increased the supply of water from approximately 46 to 55 litres per person per day to more than 8,000 children and their families.
- UNICEF established two gender-separated and disability-accessible WASH units in the quarantine area in KAP, bringing the total to four, and disinfected over 7,680 vehicles entering Azraq, KAP, and Za’atari refugee camps.
- UNICEF delivered an IPC training of trainers to 68 staff (80 % female) running Makani centres, in preparation for their gradual re-opening.
- UNICEF launched a partnership with the Dar Abu Abdullah Foundation to employ 45 youth and women to produce 280,000 cloth masks for distribution in refugee camps, ITSs, and other vulnerable communities.
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Continuity of health care services for women and children
- UNICEF, IOM and MOH, supported the provision of remote immunization for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian children and women in informal settlements. Through a remote immunization campaign, 546 children under five (48 % female) and 191 women of reproductive age were vaccinated in Zarqa and Jerash governates.
- UNICEF provided essential health and nutrition services in Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps, including essential newborn care, immunization, and treatment of childhood illnesses, to 3,254 children (51 per cent girls), and identified and treated seven boys and two girls with severe acute malnutrition.

6 The national COVID-19 campaign is headed by the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce, whose members include the World Health Organization, MOH, UNICEF, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the Royal Health Awareness Society. The maximum number of people reached through the national COVID-19 campaign is estimated to be 7 million since March 2020, engaging 3.4 million people.
6 Instances of double-reported beneficiaries who benefitted from more than one UNICEF-supported protection service may occur.
6 One cleaning kit contain two bottles of bleach, a bucket, a brush, a pack of cleaning cloths, and one pack of laundry powder.
6 UNICEF and Dar Abu Abdullah partner to create economic opportunities for youth and women during COVID-19.
Social protection and social sector financing

- A total of 377,000 households (22 per cent female-headed households) continued to receive Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) through the National Aid Fund, with UNICEF’s technical assistance. An additional 20,000 eligible beneficiaries have been identified via grievance redressal mechanisms, established with UNICEF support, and will be reached once the processing of the grievance cases are completed.
- Jointly with the WB, UNICEF has also conducted a rapid social assessment on the effectiveness of the ECA programme. The draft of this analysis is being prepared.
- Hajati education-linked cash transfers were successfully delivered to 8,386 families (33 per cent female-headed households) covering 24,165 children (48 per cent female), bringing the total to 9,157 households (25 per cent female-headed households). In a rapid post-distribution monitoring exercise conducted over SMS with June 2020 Hajati cash transfer beneficiaries, slightly more than half of beneficiaries (53 per cent) declared that the assistance received was sufficient to cover children’s basic needs. The most cited issue was the high cost of living (58 per cent). In summer months, the most cited needs for children are food (45 per cent), learning support (31 per cent), and medication and health care (31 per cent). UNICEF is continuing Hajati cash assistance until resumption of schools while also increasing its messaging campaign to ensure families direct the assistance towards its intended purpose (support children education).

Lebanon
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF and partners launched a campaign in early July aiming to reinforce COVID-19 prevention. A joint press release with around 30 partners including public institutions, UN agencies and CSOs was featured by 22 national media including top-tier media outlets. The campaign reached 3 million via print and social media.
- Aligned to an action plan supported by UN agencies, UNICEF participated in a conference on addressing fake news organized by the Ministry of Information. A ‘Fact-Check Lebanon’ website, developed with support of UNICEF and partners, was launched at the conference.
- U-report was leveraged to support a mental health campaign for youth to listen to and address their concerns during the COVID-19 period.
- As a follow up to the cluster of cases among migrant workers in Ras El Nabeh, Beirut, UNICEF engaged with 256 households, on awareness messages on COVID-19, distributed 1,024 fabric masks and provided Psychosocial Support (PSS) kits for children between 3 and 14. In isolation centres in Karantina and Medawar neighborhoods, UNICEF engaged with the governor and mayor of Beirut to prevent stigma and increase acceptance of quarantine centers by providing key messages, posters and online material, conducted awareness sessions among the community and distributed fabric masks to 410 households (2,050 persons) in the neighborhood. UNICEF also conducted a rapid assessment on fears and concerns of children living in neighborhoods with COVID-19 clusters. Results are being used to refine messaging approaches.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- UNICEF provided 6,000 Psychosocial Support (PSS) kits for children between 3 and 14 years old to vulnerable families and prepositioned 500 kits in isolation centers. The locally designed kits contain books, flash cards, and developmental games as well as key messages around COVID-19. The PSS kits aim to support learning and well-being of children and to facilitate parental engagement.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF provided WASH and IPC support to isolation centers in Ghobeiry, Roumieh and Karantina, including provision of hygiene kits, IPC/PPE kits to Meraab centre responding to a cluster of cases among workers of a major cleaning company.
- UNICEF provided households IPC kits to four positively tested Syrian refugees living in urban setting in Taanayel, Marej, Bar Elias and Britel to facilitate home isolate. As a response to a child being tested positive in an Informal Settlement (IS) in Taanayel, UNICEF provided a household IPC kit to the family for home isolation, 42 household disinfection kit to families living in the IS and continued water trucking and desludging services. The caregiver of the positive child received guidance via phone on home isolation and proper disinfection.
- UNICEF completed the WASH interventions in Maraad Isolation Center, installing 20 external gender segregated latrines, handwashing stations and showers, water tanks, septic tanks and the necessary water and wastewater connections.

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10 UNICEF previously reported a cumulative reach of 9,356 families. The cumulative figure has been amended to reflect corrections to the number of households reached after UNICEF conducted data quality checks and removal of duplicates, which occurred in instances where multiple family members were eligible to receive different types of cash assistance per family.

11 Each recipient receives JOD 25 (approx. USD 35) per month.
Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF reached 8,832 people with maternal newborn child health messages and referred them to PHCCs where relevant. Another 4,426 people received health integrated messages on COVID-19 and in addition to 1,780 caregivers who were counselled on infant and young child feeding practices and breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19. At the border entry points, 4,155 people were screened for COVID-19 and received guidance on preventive measures and home isolation. 293 children were screened and provided with measles and polio vaccines if overdue.
- UNICEF, in coordination with WFP and in support to MEHE, developed SOPs for preventive measures for school shops and canteens, and updated SOPs for the school re-opening.
- Three new partnerships were developed on the production and distribution of fabric masks to the most vulnerable population including but not limited to children with disabilities.
- UNICEF provided 165 face shields, 660 surgical face masks, 200 medical gowns, 30 boxes of gloves, 7 bottles of 4 liter hand sanitizers, 33 squeeze bottles and 5 N95 masks to Meraab Isolation center in Beirut to cover the needs of health staff upon the admission of 133 positive COVID-19 cases.

Social protection and social sector financing

- Technical and financial support to Government of Lebanon’s Emergency Cash Transfer’s second payment is completed to 140,000 households, UNICEF initiated high-level political engagement with Deputy PM and Minister of Social Affairs to engage the PM for support to rapidly expand to the 200,000 household target.
- Continued delivery of humanitarian social assistance through the Integrated Child Wellbeing Program: no suspension of social assistance throughout COVID to almost 6,000 children extremely poor children; commencing inclusion of approximately 1000 (Syrian and Lebanese) children with disabilities.
- Consultations have been completed with Director Generals across the Government, and the work of the Technical Working Groups have commenced on analysis and drafting of key components of the strategy.
- Review Groups of development partners and other actors such as civil society have also been established.

Libya

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Under the slogan ‘Lets Protect Our South’, UNICEF in partnership with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) launched a national awareness campaign to reduce COVID-19 transmission in Southern Libya. The campaign brought together national counterparts, UN agencies, and international NGOs, and reached close to 1 million people through various social media platforms, including a dedicated-Facebook page. TV channels reached 60,000 people daily.
- In coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent and the Boys Scouts and Girls Guides Association of Libya, over 100,000 individuals were reached with accurate information through the distribution of 20,000 IEC materials in Sabha, Ubrai, Qatrun, Albawanis, Ghat, and Brak al-Shati municipalities.
- Through COVID-19 content dissemination, and between 24 June and 20 July 2020, UNICEF Libya gained 6,298 new followers across its Social Media platforms. 807,648 users were reached with COVID-19 information, leading to over 43,578 online engagements.
- To magnify media messaging, UNICEF launched an outdoor campaign through seven billboards to promote the NCDC helpline number on COVID-19 in Sabha municipality as well as physical and social distancing measures.
- UNICEF in partnership with Tripoli Optics, a private sector partner, engaged with Libyan sports figures, actors and activists to raise awareness on COVID-19 and encourage families to stay home. During the reporting period, ten videos were produced, with one of the videos on parenting tips reaching 258,009 viewers.
- UNICEF, in coordination with UN Women, provided a virtual training course for 14 women municipal councilors from the south of Libya to advocate and reinforce precautionary measures and help curb the spread of misinformation.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- 288 (170 women, 76 men) social workers, teachers and child protection actors have been trained on Child Protection approaches during COVID-19, best practices of MHPSS, and tips and guidance on dealing with youth and adolescents during emergencies.
- 3,277 boys, girls, and women received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and protection support, including 88 persons reached with GBV case management. Women and girls identified at risk of facing GBV who require more individualized services were also offered case management. Through the referral pathways established in the targeted areas, they were referred to critical services such as health services, mental health specialized support, and prenatal health.
- A total of 1,575 (1,459 Female, 114 Male) benefited from awareness sessions on child protection and GBV through face-to-face sessions;
- 4,006 (boys and caregivers) were reached with campaigns on child protection messages, better parenting sessions, and information on GBV protection and prevention. Of this number, 1,575 individuals (1,459 females, 114 males) were reached through face-to-face sessions in girls’ friendly spaces, IDP shelters and Bayti centres, while 2,431 individuals (boys, girls and caregivers) were reached through radio, social media, and other online platforms.
• Three UNICEF partners activated helplines in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Misrata for a total of 18 helplines, receiving and responding to more than 1065 calls.
• Discussions were held with all partners to start opening the Bayti centers and safe spaces and ensure COVID-19 pre-cautions are in place.
• 318 additional posters and 9,301 stickers containing joint COVID-19 and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messages were installed in key public areas in Tripoli (171 posters and 3,801 stickers), Benghazi (80 posters) and Al Azizya (67 posters and 5,500 stickers). Face-to-face EORE targeted 73 students, doctors, staff from community-based organizations, and scout volunteers who are cooperating in cleaning and fixing IDP homes. Radio EORE messages were also broadcast on six radio channels in Tripoli, Sebha, and Benghazi.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
• WASH facilities in collective shelters housing internally displaced persons (IDPs), two schools in Tarhouna and another two in Ajdabiya, were rehabilitated, benefitting at least 288 IDPs from 39 families. The rehabilitation work included cleaning of the sewage system, installation of water pumps, and minor rehabilitation.
• Due to increased cases in the South, 10,000 soap bars are on the way for distribution in municipal health facilities in Sebha, Ghat, Brak, Murzuk, and Qatrun to support health staff and patients prevent the spread of the virus.
• Hygiene kits and key messages on hygienic practices were distributed to 100 families (500 persons), including 200 children in Tripoli on 15 July.
• In coordination with NCDC, UNICEF trained a total of 12 immunization staff from two municipalities, including 10 females, on the updated WHO IPC guidance for Implementing immunization sessions in the COVID-19 context.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
• During the reporting period, six more municipalities (Ajdabiya, Misurata, Alzenta, Alkufra, Tawergha and Shoura Alkufra) were provided with an integrated maternal, newborn, and child care (MNCH) and nutrition package, benefitting five primary health care (PHC) centers and two hospitals. An estimated 98,000 women and children will be reached by this package. UNICEF also provided lifesaving equipment packages for a total of 79 PHC centers in these five municipalities.

Morocco
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• In the reporting period, a total of 11,648,607 million people were reached – 11,582,305 on Facebook, 37,805 on Instagram and 28,497 on Twitter – which generated a total of 235,215 engagements. Since the launch of social media campaigns, a total of 20,496,855 people have been reached so far through all UNICEF social media platforms with a total of 1,434,80 engagements.
• UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health with the roll out of a post-lockdown communication campaign on national TV and radio networks to promote prevention measures.
• In collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, UNICEF supported the design and roll-out of “Voices of Refugees and Migrants”, a joint UN public advocacy campaign, to promote rights of migrants and refugees in the COVID context. The campaign reached 8,352 people through social media.
• UNICEF Morocco’s online initiative “Rendez-vous de l’UNICEF” focused on school counseling and orientation to school-aged children and youth in June and youth engagement in the context of COVID-19 in July. With youth, NGOs and institutional partners’ participation, the initiative reached 9,307,762 people during the reporting period and engaged 199,826 people.
• Through its civil society partners, UNICEF reached a total of 160 people, mostly migrant youth and children, with community-based prevention messaging and activities. 451 feedback cases were addressed bringing to total 1,727 feedback cases generated by community interventions to date.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services
• Via its partnership with a University, UNICEF supported 301 children – including street children and children with disability - and 62 social workers through psychosocial support and trainings during the reporting period.
• Through partnership with civil society organizations, UNICEF reached 83 children without parental or family care – mainly former street children who were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements or reintegration into their families.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
• An additional 40,000 COVID-19 PCR tests purchased by UNICEF for the Ministry of Health arrived in Morocco.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
• UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Health for the development of a distance training course for health professionals (including maternity and pediatric hospital staff, ESPS, mobile units...
health providers and community health workers) on COVID-19 nutrition guidelines, including breastfeeding promotion and screening and management of nutritional disorders.

Social protection and social sector financing

- As of July 13, 5.9 million households representing 100% of the set target, have received cash transfer support. These 5.9 million households represent about 16.9 million beneficiaries and an estimate of 4.9 million children. The government had already distributed two transfers for these households and will start distributing the third (& last) transfer from July 18, 2020.
- 321 vulnerable families have received humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF direct support via its civil society partners.
- The High Commission for Planning (National Institute of Statistics) concluded the 2nd round of a nationally representative survey on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, with the technical support of UNICEF. The results of two components (out of 4) of this round – on households and individuals behavior following COVID-19 impact and on the employment and livelihood impacts- have been released. The finalization of 2 other components (covering also education and health) is ongoing. The results of the surveys are used to inform the ongoing national response to Covid-19.

Oman

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF supported the inter-ministerial RCCE Committee to continue implementation of the parenting communication strategy to address secondary impacts of COVID-19. In this regard, UNICEF’s parents4parents social media campaign was successfully completed after a two-month implementation during which parents across Oman recorded short video clips to promote positive parenting amongst peers.
- UNICEF developed and disseminated messages for the public via its own and partner social and mass media channels and amplified messages from the Government of Oman. UNICEF reaches approximately 166,000 people through its social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn).

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- UNICEF continued to work with the Ministry of Social Development and other partners to ensure the proper functioning of the children’s hotline and the case management system within the current COVID-19 context. UNICEF has also established and is operating a communications mechanism to provide credible and up-to-date information to social workers during the outbreak.
- The Ministry of Health developed an e-booklet on positive parenting, again drawing on assets prepared by UNICEF and following UNICEF’s advocacy efforts. This included a section on parenting children with disabilities.

Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF developed a brief economic analysis on the impact of the oil price crash and COVID-19. The analysis proposes four scenarios that provide basic modelling for an in-depth understanding of the impact of the shocks on the economy and social sectors’ financing with the aim to provide policy options for the government to mitigate the potential negative effects on services for children. The brief highlights how maintaining access to quality social sector services needs a more significant fiscal response than the current combination of some spending cuts and increases in VAT.
- UNICEF is currently in discussion with the Supreme Council of Planning and sector ministries on how key findings of the economic analysis (and a subsequent Fiscal Space Analysis) can inform social sector plans as well as the comprehensive economic analysis that is planned to be undertaken by the Government. This will be important to inform key discussions on the government’s aim to achieve expenditure efficiency, whilst not threatening equitable access to quality services.

The State of Palestine

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In the reporting period, social media messages received 502,190 views (total 15.7 million views since the start of the response) through 24 multi-media posts focused on physical distancing, stigmatization, handwashing, home quarantine, gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support for children.
- Outdoor efforts were enhanced - over 15 new billboards with messages focusing on physical distancing were installed in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Six new radio spots have been broadcast with messages on stigmatization, physical distancing, staying home, wearing masks, and mental health in the West Bank and Gaza.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- In Gaza, UNICEF through a partner reached 1,088 people (including 856 children) with psychosocial and protection services, including case management, group and individual counseling, life skills education, child-
In the West Bank, UNICEF through five partners reached 69 people (including 42 children) with remote child protection interventions including psychosocial support. In addition, 15 psychosocial and protection service providers (5 male and 10 female) received training on remote psychosocial interventions.

In the State of Palestine, 196 people (including 34 boys and 33 girls) accessed the safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse run by a UNICEF partner in this period. Of the 67 calls from children, five children (one boy and four girls) reported sexual abuse and exploitation through helpline services. An additional 27 children (17 boys and 10 girls) reported physical abuse through the same helpline. All children received psychosocial first-aid and counselling (note: the remaining 35 calls were from children who did not report physical or sexual violence, but were experiencing anxiety and other psychological stress, mostly from COVID-19 related pressures).

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF delivered 26 bedside monitors for intensive care units (13 for the West Bank and 13 for Gaza) for the Ministry of Health (MoH) to address the needs of essential medical supplies at health facilities during the COVID-19 crisis. This is expected to benefit at least 52 persons monthly.
- UNICEF provided the MoH with medical waste disposal equipment and supplies.
- E-voucher top-ups were provided for target vulnerable population to redeem hygiene items at local shops for an additional 96 vulnerable families below the poverty line in the West Bank, benefitting an additional 576 individuals.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- National organization treated 13 children (7 boys and 6 girls) with severe acute malnutrition with support of UNICEF.
- In Gaza, UNICEF supported local NGOs to maintain provision of essential maternal, neonatal and child health services for high-risk women and young children through alternate modalities such as telephone counselling. An additional 1,606 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and 686 children accessed continued essential health and nutrition care services, including 337 caregivers who received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.

Sudan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF has been preparing for a large-scale community campaign on enforcing social practices, to be run by Government partners. This preparation has involved training community organisations to produce face masks and wear them in public. Mobilizing the communities in this way is intended to promote and normalize the practice as an internal driver of behaviour change to compliment messaging through the private sector and telecommunications companies. The campaign will start in Omdurman and spread throughout the seven Khartoum localities. As part of the Safe Return Campaign, 200,000 facemasks were produced and distributed for the Grade 8 examinations in collaboration with private sector partners including DAL Group and the Ministry of Health. These were accompanied by messaging and mobilization to enable the Grade 8 students to become promoters of behaviour change in their communities.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) and State Councils for Child Welfare (SCCW) reunified 14,518 separated and unaccompanied children with their families in the Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile states including children in Khalwas (Islamic Schools). Around 21,164 people including parents and children received family and individual based PSS services.
- UNICEF’s advocacy with the Family Child Protection Units and law enforcement authorities resulted in the release of 985 children from FCPUs in all the states.
- In collaboration with the MOSW, SCCW in the states and civil society organizations, 6,227 children living and working on and off the streets received food and other basic services. They struggle to find enough to eat during the best of times but the closure of restaurants and venues during COVID-19 has denied them a source of charity. Gender Based Violence prevention and response services were also provided to 488 GBV victims.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

A total of 115,740 COVID-19 affected or at high risk population in isolation centres, health facilities, rural/urban and emergency areas were reached with WASH related COVID-19 IPC supplies and/or services. The below summary is highlighting the provided support:

- Around 480 current and expected patients and medical staff 288 males, 192 females in 4 isolation centers in Gedarif and North Kordofan states were supported with WASH services including IPC supplies and rehabilitation/connection of WASH facilities as required.
• 86,234 rural/urban community members and IDPs (41,539 males, 44,695 females) in newly approached sites in East Darfur, Blue Nile and South Darfur states were supported with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion and distribution of WASH COVID-19 IPC supplies including handwashing soap, face masks and IEC materials.

• 29,000 people (13,831 males, 15,169 females) in very crowded and emergency areas of East Darfur and North Kordofan States have access to additional expanded basic water facilities and distribution systems through the rehabilitation of water supply and distribution systems and installation of handwashing stations in order to facilitate community social distancing and hygienic practices.

• 26 (12 males, 14 females) Environmental health cadre in Khartoum State trained on IPC components.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

• During the reporting period, UNICEF provided PPEs to 2,590 healthcare facility staff and community health workers, including COVID-19 frontline responders and health workers delivering essential PHC services. UNICEF also supported the training of 851 health and community health workers on various modules, including proper usage and disposal of PPEs and program adaptation for safe delivery of PHC services. UNICEF supported training of 969 health and community health workers on detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

• Through UNICEF’s support 144,134 children and women received essential healthcare services, including immunization (82,196), IMCI (33,096), ANC/Delivery (17,075), Newborn Care (11,767). This brings the cumulative number reached to 833,728.

• Also, 26,858 mothers and primary care givers received messages on recommended infant and young child feeding practices while 14,397 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition received appropriate care and treatment reaching cumulatively 340,314 and 120,674 children, respectively.

Social protection and social sector financing

• UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labor and Social Development (MoLSD) and partners to design and implement a COVID-19 Informal Sector Response Plan including cash and in-kind assistance. The Plan is particularly focused on supporting food and hygiene needs of families in the informal sector during lockdown. Through this Plan, MoLSD and partners reached 504,689 families with food and hygiene packages and 108,313 families reached with cash cards. UNICEF-supported food and hygiene packages reached 30,000 families living in peri-urban areas of Khartoum State. UNICEF also provided 2 million bars of soap as in-kind contribution to the plan.

Syria

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

• UNICEF trained 46 health workers from all governorates on key RCCE concepts. Each governorate team will cascade the training to reach 1,500 frontline workers by December 2020.

• RCCE campaigns are ongoing in Al Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) as a part of a six-months plan: 30 volunteers were trained on RCCE, 15 focus groups discussions were conducted to learn about the community practices, and 200 community leaders attended awareness sessions. Interactive and edutainment activities were conducted for 350 children and adolescents.

• A 10-days RCCE campaign took place in Homs governorate and 74 health workers were trained on COVID19-related risk communication principles and communication skills over five days.

• UNICEF and partners reached 12 million (cumulative) people since the beginning of the emergency on messaging for prevention and access to services through TV and radio broadcasts and dissemination of print materials.

• In the Northwest, during the reporting period, over 1,500 mosques disseminated messages for COVID-19 prevention. Also, 90,600 IDPs and host population in Idlib governorate were reached with COVID-19 messaging shared through social media.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

• In the Northwest, 6,896 children and parents/caregivers were reached from IDPs as well as host communities with child protection awareness sessions.

• COVID-19 awareness topics were integrated with mine risk education in camps of the Northeast reaching over 2,000 people through 97 awareness sessions.

• Youth led initiatives were also supported, and over 100 young people from mobile teams led public transport sterilization initiatives in Rural Damascus.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

• UNICEF supported, light rehabilitation of WASH systems is completed in eight facilities, and rehabilitation works are on-going in the other seven healthcare facilities. Besides creating a safe environment for both patients and healthcare facility staff, these rehabilitations will also contribute to enhancing the resilience of the healthcare services delivery system.
Almost 20,000 IDPs had better access to water with less queuing as part of COVID-19 social distancing measures through the installation of 141 water tanks in 35 camps and informal settlements in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. Further, 4,600 IDPs in 7 camps in Idleb received better access, ensure social distancing and less queuing in line with COVID-19 risk mitigation measures through installation of 33 water distribution points.

Also, over 60,000 IDPs were reached through the distribution of 11,593 Family Hygiene kits including Information, Education and Communication material in 58 camps and informal settlements in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates, while 51,585 IDPs have participated in hygiene awareness and COVID-19 prevention sessions.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Six trainings took place in July on infection control and prevention (IPC) for Covid-19 and rational use of PPEs took place in Homs, Hama and DFO targeting 126 health workers working in Syrian Family Planning Association and other NGOs in addition to IYCF program volunteers.
- Sufficient quantities of essential PPEs were distributed directly to 7 main MOH hospitals in Damascus and Rural Damascus as well as to one of MoHE hospital in Damascus (Al-Mowasat): 77,500 Surgical Masks, 4,850 Hands Sanitizers, 7,200 Disposable Non-Woven Surgical Caps and 1,550 boxes of 100 gloves pairs
- In the Northwest a total of 11,954 caregivers attended awareness sessions organized by UNICEF health partners while almost 15,000 households’ visits were conducted.
- Support advocacy meetings for the community leaders and workshops for Newborn Care at Home in 5 northern governorates including the key messages on COVID-19 symptoms, and Infection, Prevention, and Control measures.
- 769,163 primary health care consultations for mothers and children were provided in SCO till June which is 51% of our target
- For EPI: A national immunization week 14th – 18th June was concluded with support from UNICEF and WHO and implemented by the Syrian Ministry of Health, aimed to reach an estimated more than 250,000 children under-five who have missed the opportunity to receive their required doses of routine childhood vaccines. More than 196,000 out of 250,000 targeted under-five children reached for their required doses of routine vaccinations across 14 governorates. The vaccination area was apart and far from the medical units as much as it was possible.
- For nutrition until June 2020: Around 664,000 children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition (47 % of the annual target): ii) More than 330,000 Out of them, were provided with micronutrients. (55% of the annual target) iii) As a result of screening activities, more than 2500 children were identified and treated for severe acute malnutrition (61% of the annual target) iv) UNICEF also continued to support the preventative nutrition interventions, as a result of this support, around 298,000 caregivers including PLWs were reached with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) (37% of the IYCF annual target).
- It is worth mentioning that COVID-19 -related messages were included in the IYCF messages as of the beginning of COVID-19 response.

Social protection and social sector financing

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 1,066 households in poor urban areas of Rural Damascus with an emergency cash transfer for basic needs, bringing the total number since the beginning of this year to around 21,300 households (51,361 children) who have been reached in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Lattakia.
- Furthermore, in collaboration with WFP, 35,400 households were reached with vouchers for hygiene items. This initiative targets families of children in accelerated learning programmes in eight governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, Al Hasakeh, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous. The duration of the intervention is two months (May-June).

Tunisia

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In partnership with the private sector, other UN agencies and USAID, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to finalize a second round of the RCCE campaign which will target three different audiences - the general public; tourists; and Tunisians living abroad and returning for the holidays to reinforce COVID-19 prevention messaging following the reopening of borders on June 27th.
- As of July 21st, a total of 67 COVID-19 related communication materials have been produced and disseminated through various communication channels (TV, radio, digital and urban display), reaching over 6.2 million people.
- To date, UNICEF Tunisia social media platforms reached a total of 25.8 million impressions with the various COVID-19 communication material developed in-country (Facebook 20,835,400 impressions; Instagram 4,871,051; Twitter 34,176; LinkedIn 8,038; website 13,418 user sessions)

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services

- The set of Standard Operating Procedures on multisectoral coordination and referral for women, children and adolescent’s victim of violence / at risk are being finalized jointly by the government, other UN agencies and UNICEF.
Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- The Ministries of Health; Women, Families, Children and Seniors; Social Affairs and Justice are currently distributing WASH kits procured through the funds generously provided by USAID to approximately 3,000 beneficiaries including children, health workers and social workers in 108 different facilities.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- In coordination with WHO, UNICEF continues to provide support to the Ministry of Health to update its National Response Plan according to the epidemiological developments of the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia as well as providing advice on managing a potential second wave.
- Approximately 56 tons of Personal Protective Equipment procured by UNICEF with the funds generously provided by Japan and Sweden are being delivered by the Ministry of Health to different healthcare facilities to ensure protection of healthcare workers and maintain continuity of essential healthcare services, including vaccination across Tunisia.

Social protection and social sector financing
- Jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs and KfW, UNICEF is about to finalize a EUR 12M cash transfer program targeting approximately 330,000 vulnerable children. The program will act as a bridge for children until the new multi-partners budget support is launched in early 2021.

Yemen
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- In the reporting period, an estimated 16.5M people were reached through communication flashes, public service announcements, discussion programmes and live phone-in programmes on radio and television.
- UNICEF partners continued sending COVID-19 SMS and voice messages to 13.5M subscribers over the four telecommunication companies.
- About 3.5M people were reached through 11,000 WhatsApp groups created by religious leaders, community volunteers and members of Mother-to-Mother clubs to reinforce COVID-19 messages.
- Community volunteers reached 524,340 people through 71,827 house-to-house visits. Community Volunteers supported distribution of hygiene kits to 2,500 families in IDPs centres in Aden and Hadramout.
- Imams continued awareness sessions in over 5,000 mosques, reaching about 3.6M people.
- Orientation sessions on COVID-19 RCCE was organized for 1,300 school health facilitators in Al-Amana and Sana’a governorates. The facilitators will reach out to parents in their communities.
- About 3,200 people called the hotline of the MoPHP with questions about COVID-19.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on COVID-19 have been developed and disseminated.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection and social sector financing, child protection, and GBV services
- In addition to the 79 children released in May, 73 children were released from detention and reintegrated with their families as of 18 July 2020. UNICEF is negotiating for the release of 11 children in interim care center in the South.
- CP team shifted to the remote MHPSS support to minimize the risks for children. These include dissemination of inter-agency endorsed MHPSS messages through SMS, radio and TV program; Provision of PSS counselling for children and families through hotlines; distribution of home-based PSS activities kits for the children.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- The de facto authorities also referred to as AA in the north announced refocus on self-isolation and the COVID-19 treatment centers. As a result, all 27 Quarantine Centers supported by UNICEF in the north were empty by 14 July, aside from continued provision of safe water and latrines to the Afar entry point in Al-Bayda.
- UNICEF distributed PPE supplies during the period 21 June to 19 July, including face shields, masks, gloves, aprons, gowns and surgical caps to seven government Hospitals in the south and MSF France.
- On 7 July, 8000 COVID-19 test kits arrived in Aden and are being distributed.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- UNICEF supported sensitization of 1,525 Community Health Workers (CHWs) on COVID-19 guidelines. Between March and June 2020, more than 1.2 million beneficiaries were reached by CHWs, of which 66% were females (823,180) in rural hard to reach areas.
- In Sanaa, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of triage in Maber Hospital in Dhamar governorate.
- Tents were provided in the South for 30 triage points along with an instructional video.
- A total of 93 oxygen concentrators were distributed, and procurement of additional 300 is in process.
- UNICEF in collaboration with WHO implemented a diphtheria campaign in Ade, Lahj, Almarah, Taiz and Aldhale in the South reaching a total of 1,022,427 children 6 weeks-15 years, 75% of the target population.
Social protection and social sector financing

- The eighth payment cycle of the Yemen Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) project was launched on 27 June. During this payment cycle, humanitarian support was provided for a onetime top-up to the beneficiary amount to help beneficiaries cope with the COVID-19 global pandemic. The top-up amount was approximately 45 per cent of the beneficiaries’ quarterly base amount. As of 22 July, 1.418 million beneficiaries received their benefits with this top-up, which correspond to about 89 per cent of all cash recipients. Different COVID-19 preventative measures, identified through a thorough risk mitigation exercise, are in place to ensure the safety of beneficiaries and project personnel. Beneficiaries were requested to cover their nose and mouth, to maintain physical distancing while queuing and inside the payment sites and to use the provided hand sanitiser before entering and after collecting their cash. All project staff are using protective gear (masks and gloves) and a strong scheduling and crowd management mechanisms were put in place to prevent crowding at the payment sites.

Coordination

UNICEF Regional Office (MENARO) and UNICEF Country Offices across the MENA region continue to engage and work in close cooperation and coordination with governments, WHO, inter-agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centres for Disease Control, INGOs, local NGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies, World Bank and others to avoid overlaps and optimise complementarities in the response.

Advocacy

UNICEF continues regionally and at country level to advocate for the strengthening and expansion of social protection systems that include children from families affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Media activities highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on children’s access to basic health services and protection in several countries. As countries are approaching the new school, UNICEF continues to be a resource for reliable information and guidance on the safe return of children to schools.

UNICEF launched the #MaskUp regional campaign on all social media platforms, to encourage the wearing of masks as an essential COVID-10 preventative health measure. As an ongoing activity, the campaign is engaging social media influencers, celebrities from over nine countries, and individuals from the public to increase awareness around the proper use and disposal of masks, and to make wearing masks more creative and engaging for children. This coincided with the World Mask Week and global efforts to raise awareness on the importance of wearing masks. The campaign continues to gain traction with over 500,000 reached, and many country offices locally adopting the campaign on their platforms.

External Media

PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

UNICEF campaign on wearing masks as COVID-19 cases soar across the Middle East and North Africa

Beirut explosions: UNICEF urgently appeals for US$46.7 million to support 100,000 children over the next three months

UNICEF airlifts its biggest PPE shipment to help Sudan contain COVID-19 outbreak

Yemen sees return to alarming levels of food insecurity - UNICEF, WFP, FAO & OCHA

Eight children die in Al Hol camp, northeastern Syria in less than a week+

As COVID-19 intensifies suffering in Yemen, the EU increases vital support for children and their families

WHO and UNICEF warn of a decline in vaccinations during COVID-19

Articles and Blogs

Joint WFP, UNICEF e-voucher programme supports families of out-of-school children in Aleppo
Delivering life-saving vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic

Suhaib’s new life

Regional policy dialogue webinar on school reopening in the Arab region

Syrian Youth produce face masks in response to COVID 19 for children and families

Resource Mobilisation & Partnerships

Region-wide: A new regional partnership was secured with Mobile Telecommunications Company Zain which commits Zain and UNICEF to work together to develop common programmes for children in Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. Under the umbrella framework, Zain in Jordan have already committed to providing zero-rated access to UNICEF’s Learning Passport platform to support youth in continuing learning and skills development.

GAO: UNICEF is also collaborating with the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) to create an online platform for teachers with tips, materials, guiding documents and questions and answers related to online teaching.

Libya: UNICEF in partnership with Tripoli Optics, a private sector partner, engaged with Libyan sports figures, actors and activists to raise awareness on COVID-19 and encouraged families to stay home. During the reporting period, ten videos were produced, with one of the videos on parenting tips reaching 258,009 viewers.

Tunisia: In partnership with the private sector and other UN agencies and thanks to the funds generously provided by USAID, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to finalize the second round of social mobilization and communication campaign which will target three different audiences (the general public; tourists; and Tunisians living abroad and returning for the holidays) to reinforce the message on preventive measures against COVID19 following the reopening of borders on June 27th.

Egypt: In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF procured and delivered to the MOHP warehouse additional 12,000 litres of chlorine (60,000 litres in total), ensuring a sustainable and reliable supply of disinfectants to 3,200 primary health care centres nationwide, with an estimated coverage of 2,400,000 people.

Funding Overview *

UNICEF MENA’s latest appeal for US$356.9 million seeks to support government efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through the provision of critical supplies and adequate health care, as well as responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. UNICEF has so far received $141.3 million – accounting for 60% of the target - thanks to generous contributions from the organization’s various partners. However, the region still urgently needs an additional $215.5 million to support governments, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>1,405,000</td>
<td>2,747,720</td>
<td>(1,342,720)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>7,935,000</td>
<td>2,180,778</td>
<td>5,754,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>30,916,000</td>
<td>5,217,094</td>
<td>25,698,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>17,210,970</td>
<td>3,972,371</td>
<td>13,238,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>11,837,000</td>
<td>6,743,952</td>
<td>5,093,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>22,709,753</td>
<td>14,874,564</td>
<td>7,835,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>58,902,507</td>
<td>9,597,141</td>
<td>49,304,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>16,100,000</td>
<td>4,469,033</td>
<td>11,630,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>5,070,000</td>
<td>4,128,070</td>
<td>941,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>147,456</td>
<td>212,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Palestine</td>
<td>16,065,645</td>
<td>11,922,530</td>
<td>4,143,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>24,535,000</td>
<td>16,287,375</td>
<td>8,247,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>30,581,925</td>
<td>23,032,687</td>
<td>7,549,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>8,100,000</td>
<td>5,211,640</td>
<td>2,888,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>103,257,802</td>
<td>29,074,990</td>
<td>74,182,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENARO</td>
<td>1,906,000</td>
<td>1,765,211</td>
<td>140,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>356,892,602</strong></td>
<td><strong>141,373,185</strong></td>
<td><strong>215,519,417</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As defined in the Humanitarian Appeal of 12/05/2020 for a period of 9 months. Funds Available are as of 22/07/2020. Funding available includes COVID-19 related top up to the existing contributions:
DFID to the State of Palestine amounting $543,330; European Commission to Morocco amounting $88,860; European Commission to Jordan amounting $4,479,283.32; DFID to Jordan amounting $199,405; ECHO to Syria amounting $1,679,731 (EUR 1,500,000) and Government of Australia to Lebanon amounting $3,075,031.

Funding available also includes reprogramming negotiated and approved by the donors for the contributions originally issued for the other than COVID-19 purposes:

- Iran: $14,430 from the European Commission and $18,120 for the UN Joint Programme through the Embassy of the Netherlands;
- Jordan: $832,494 from the Ireland; $1,883,108 from Austria; $57,240 from Japan; $86,400 from the Republic of Korea;
- Lebanon: $1,398,514 from OCHA
- State of Palestine: $876,523 from Education Cannot Wait; $84,285 from ECHO; 302,400 from AFD
- Sudan: $6,987,612 from Germany

Next SitRep: 2 September 2020

Who to contact for further information:

**Ted Chaiban**
Regional Director
Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
Tel: +962 6 5502 401
Email: tchaiban@unicef.org

**Yannick Brand**
Regional Emergency Advisor
Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
Tel: +962 6 5502 400
Email: ybrand@unicef.org

**Juliette Touma**
Regional Chief of Communications
Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
Tel: +962 6 5509 624
Email: jtouma@unicef.org
## Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Response Targets</th>
<th>2020 target*</th>
<th>Total results</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Results in the reporting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td>258,170,000</td>
<td>238,090,909</td>
<td>46,626,475</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions</td>
<td>42,923,500</td>
<td>28,814,780</td>
<td>5,681,364</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms</td>
<td>2,375,000</td>
<td>566,369</td>
<td>125,349</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infection prevention control (IPC)/ WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>11,322,774</td>
<td>11,955,137</td>
<td>4,536,840</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>75,125</td>
<td>82,698</td>
<td>14,569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</td>
<td>19,924</td>
<td>7,509</td>
<td>2,454</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of essential health and nutrition services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>17,150</td>
<td>6,997</td>
<td>1,252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities</td>
<td>7,462,158</td>
<td>4,681,443</td>
<td>479,096</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 through national communication campaigns</td>
<td>4,465,670</td>
<td>1,724,654</td>
<td>178,513</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>665,400</td>
<td>161,844</td>
<td>27,628</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of education, child protection, social protection and social sector financing and gender-based violence services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td>7,264,557</td>
<td>3,448,204</td>
<td>86,661</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td>31,766</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>19,062</td>
<td>12,871</td>
<td>230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>442,153</td>
<td>225,334</td>
<td>43,781</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors</td>
<td>3,434</td>
<td>3,126</td>
<td>254</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>306,650</td>
<td>125,243</td>
<td>16,201</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19-19-19</td>
<td>174,500</td>
<td>10,417</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support</td>
<td>20,837,000</td>
<td>11,857,790</td>
<td>897,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Targets are as of July 22, 2020.