Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs
On 26 February, the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Georgia. In the following days, several more cases emerged which triggered the Government to institute restrictions on land and air movement and closure of schools, effective 2 March. The Government identified hospitals for confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as quarantine spaces for suspected cases in different regions of Georgia.

Despite the early actions of the Government, the number of cases is growing which triggered the Government to declare a state of emergency on 21 March, closing borders and airports, restricting movement inside and the country, banning mass gatherings, and maintaining closure of all schools, kindergartens, universities. Two regions, Bolnisi and Dmanisi, are declared as quarantine zones as community spread was detected on 22 March.

Humanitarian Strategy and Response
UNICEF is working closely with the Government, WHO and other United Nations and humanitarian team partners, to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on limiting human-to-human transmission and mitigating the impact of the outbreak on the health system and communities.

UNICEF’s has a mix of response and preparedness activities including:
1. Facilitating risk communication as well as learning, play and positive parenting communications;
2. Provision of critical hygiene and medical supplies for healthcare and education structures;
3. Ensuring children and pregnant and lactating women are supported with adequate healthcare despite the outbreak;
4. Mitigate secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to education, child protection needs including prevention of violence against children, and advocating for continued access to social protection programmes.

UNICEF’s Response
• 100% of UNICEF staff are practicing physical distancing
• Developed a Multi-Scenario Interactive Projection Tool which allows the Government to project needs for hospitalization and artificial ventilation thus informing emergency preparedness
• Supported a WHO rapid assessment on hospital preparedness and laboratory capacity in Abkhazia, Georgia which will guide the development of a humanitarian response strategy
Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- UNICEF is carrying out awareness-raising campaign for children and parents about prevention of COVID-19 and its related risks through media and digital platforms
- UNICEF produced a video on continuous learning amid school closure which reached 20,000 people through social media platforms
- UNICEF participated in several TV interviews to provide information on continuous education, how to talk to children on COVID-19 and breastfeeding practices during COVID-19
- Social media cards and visuals have been produced about home-based learning, play and stimulation
- UNICEF is providing access to learning, play and stimulation exercises online
- An informational video in the Abkhaz language was produced to inform children and their families about COVID-19 and related prevention measures

Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Technical assistance provided to estimate personal protective equipment and mechanical ventilation needs
- Technical support provided for the procurement of antimalarial drugs for COVID-19 response
- Technical assistance provided on routine immunization services during COVID-19 pandemic to ensure uninterrupted service delivery including support to identify children who have missed their vaccine doses and helping health professionals to schedule immunization visits to avoid crowding in waiting rooms
- Technical assistance provided to develop an antenatal care protocol during the COVID-19 response and organize the flow for routine antenatal care visits.
- Technical assistance provided to estimate COVID-19 infant isolation and care capacity in the country

Child Protection

- A needs assessment was initiated to identify most vulnerable groups of children and measures undertaken by Government and other organizations
- Information is being collected on children in alternative care (2 state specialized institutions, foster care, small group homes, un-regulated institutions), children in the justice system and children in vulnerable families (such as street children and children with disabilities who used to attend community-based services) to understand protection needs during the COVID-19 response
- Potential partners identified for provision of psychological support to children and care givers

Education

- UNICEF is supporting the development of response strategies in agreement and close coordination with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
- UNICEF is developing communication materials to support cognitive, emotional and motoric development of young children using various platforms (social media, TV, radio, preschools/municipalities)
- UNICEF is supporting the development of a brief teachers’ guide to support organizing effective distant learning that considers individual needs of children and families
- Support is also being provided to develop guidelines for care providers on physical activities for children given the temporary social distancing measures.

Social Protection

- UNICEF is launching a Shock Responsive Social Protection Feasibility Assessment
- Technical support is being provided in the development of the COVID-19 response plan

Human Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Personnel in Georgia CO</th>
<th>Tbilisi</th>
<th>Abkhazia</th>
<th>Total Staff Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Staff</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,101,399</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>3,071,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>169,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,741,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>171,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,570,399</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next Situation Report: 31 March 2020

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<sup>1</sup> RR Funds reprogrammed, according to a reprioritization exercise, from regular programme to Covid-19 response.