As of April 13, 2020, Funding Received, $6.25M

Funding Gap 86.15M

Funding Requirements (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication</td>
<td>18,409,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Medical &amp; WASH Activities for IPC</td>
<td>31,096,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare for Women &amp; Children</td>
<td>19,931,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous Services (Education, Child Protection &amp; GBV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>910,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>3,723,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Status (US$)

Middle East & North Africa Region COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2

Highlights

- In Yemen, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the Hadramaut Governorate. UNICEF is supporting authorities to establish WASH facilities in 49 quarantine and 10 isolation centers, in six governorates. 10,000 Yemeni returnees and migrants received hygiene kits.

- UNICEF increased its digital and online activities through various social media platforms, including WhatsApp and mobile networks. Using two-way communication channels such as Interactive digital social media engagements and Interactive radio platforms, UNICEF reached and engaged with more than 34 million users.

- UNICEF is providing critical medical and WASH supplies in 10 out of 20 countries in the region. More than 1.5 million units were procured.

- In 11 countries, UNICEF is supporting plans for the reopening of schools, including disinfection, procuring hygiene supplies, developing safe school guidelines, or preparing catch-up education strategies.

- In a positive development, eight Governments are starting to put in place measures to release children from places of detention. Challenges remain to support their reintegration given reduced social services.

- UNICEF is engaging with the World Bank to support Governments in expanding social cash transfers for vulnerable families and children, WASH and Education. In Jordan, the Government will receive temporary financial support for cash transfers for 300,000 households.

- UNICEF MENA Regional Office gathered 21 mobile operators from 15 countries to accelerate work on RCCE, facilitate distant learning, and support the delivery of cash transfers.

Situation in Numbers

- **105,419** COVID-19 cases. 76,389 (72%) in Iran
- **5,699** COVID-19 deaths. 4,777 (83%) in Iran
- All **110 million** school aged students are not in school due to closure of education facilities.
- **21 mobile operators** to accelerate RCCE, distant learning and cash transfers.
- **US$94.2 million** funding requirement
Situation Overview

On 10 April, Yemen reported its first case (Hadramaut Governorate, east of Yemen), such that all 20 countries in the region now have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of April 11, a total of 105,419 cases and 5,699 deaths were reported in the MENA region (source: WHO).

Iran continues to carry the heaviest toll with more than 72% of cases (76,389) and 83% (4,777) of deaths, placing the country as the 8th most-affected globally. While the daily number of deaths has fluctuated between 120 and 160 in March, a constant decrease in the daily number of confirmed cases have been reported since April 1st. The number of daily cases is decreasing in some provinces such as Qom, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Markazi. The second phase of the social distancing plan has started within the framework of a screening programme of asymptomatic people. “Low-risk” businesses in all provinces, except for Tehran, have resumed work on April 11; schools, universities and various social, cultural, sports and religious events will remain closed until April 18.

Daily number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and associated deaths in the Islamic Republic of Iran from March 5 to April 10, 2020.

![Chart showing daily number of cases and deaths in Iran from March 5 to April 10, 2020](chart)

Source: WHO Daily update for the Islamic Republic of Iran

A 36% increase in confirmed cases during the first week of April suggests two main trends: first, an intensive testing strategy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait (150% increase in cases detected) where the epidemic seems to be under control (limited number of deaths); second, an epidemic progressing in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco, including a steep increase in the number of deaths.

In Syria and Sudan, the number of cases doubled during from 5 to 11 April. Although the numbers remain low (29 and 32 respectively), the high Case Fatality Rate (8% and 10% respectively) suggests that the number of cases could be higher. In Djibouti, after the improvement of testing capacity and the occurrence of a nosocomial transmission, a 200% increase in cases was recorded last week, with a total of two deaths.

Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in MENA countries (excl. Iran)

![Chart showing cumulative number of cases in MENA countries (excl. Iran)](chart)
While the pandemic is unfolding, negative impacts on societies and economies are becoming more visible. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) estimates that the crisis may plunge an additional 8.3 million people into poverty in the Arab Region, representing an increase of about 9% compared with pre-pandemic estimates. Children are at risk of being over-represented and more likely to be forced to adopt negative coping strategies with long terms impacts on their development. Several governments in the region are designing economic stimulus and social protection interventions for the most vulnerable, although those are being limited by macroeconomic and fiscal constraints.

National immunization campaigns are slowed down or suspended, including in Djibouti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Syria, and nutrition services are negatively affected, including in Iraq, Jordan and Yemen. In Egypt, while routine services are expected to work normally, the demand for primary health services has sharply declined and is mostly limited to emergencies.

Education institutions in all 20 countries in MENA remain closed, with over 110 million children, adolescents and young people out of school. In all countries, Ministries of Education have at least one on-line platform available that can allow continuity of learning at home. However, access is not always free, and 10 countries have an Internet penetration lower than 70%. Consequently, the most vulnerable children are the ones who are mostly not being reached by on-line platforms, especially refugees in camps, informal settings or children in rural areas. In addition, none of these platforms have sign language translation or other means to be accessible by children with disabilities. While TV programmes and in some countries radio programmes complement on-line platforms, data on access to multiple learning options is limited. Governments are also often prioritizing exam classes to make sure students can complete the year.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

UNICEF’s response in the Middle East and North Africa region has been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), as well as the UNICEF Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal.

Since the onset of the crisis and in all countries across the region, UNICEF has been working with line Ministries and WHO to establish or reinforce coordination mechanisms for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), and developed materials on COVID-19 prevention and risk reduction practices in local languages, mainly in Arabic and Farsi and on other languages spoken by local communities. The messages are being promoted through a mix of channels including TV, radio, social media, the mass media, billboards, printed material, religious, faith and community leaders, health workers and public influencers. UNICEF increased its engagement on the different social media platforms, Whatsapp and mobile networks, reaching more than 35 million users. In Oman, UNICEF supports the Government in reaching the large migrant labour community with tailored content in 10 languages, including Hindi and Bangladeshi, via SMS text notifications, online community networks, and influencers.

UNICEF is assisting governments by providing critical medical and WASH supplies (including Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene products in 10 out of 20 countries in the region). UNICEF is supporting the improvement of Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) including the revision and reinforcement of the national hygiene and sanitation protocols including in quarantine and isolation facilities, schools, health facilities, markets and other public spaces. Technical assistance and development of guidance are being provided for health workers on management of COVID-19 cases for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

To respond to the closure of education facilities including schools, UNICEF’s response focuses on: i) supporting teachers, students and parents to remain engaged with learning1, ii) supporting reopening safe schools that provide opportunities for catch up2 and iii) exploring the expansion of innovative approaches to reach the most vulnerable children in the COVID-19 context and beyond.

To help cushion the significant socio-economic impact of COVID-19 that MENA countries are facing (including job and income losses, potential rise in poverty), UNICEF has undertaken timely advocacy and technical advice to help governments expand or establish rapid social protection responses. In Morocco, Jordan and Iraq, large-scale national social cash transfer expansions have been announced for households that are hardest hit. UNICEF is currently assessing the potential impact of confinement measures on existing social protection programmes and will work with partners to help implement adjusted modalities.

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1 This goes beyond following the national curriculum and stresses the importance to practice acquired skills through reading, writing and engaging in learning projects.

2 For ministries, schools, teachers and parents to recognize potential learning loss and ensure adequate measures for catch-up. Assessment of level of engagement of students with learning is key to design appropriate strategies once schools reopen.
The delivery of emergency supplies continues to be challenged by the closure of borders, air space and interruption and delays in flights. To minimize supply lead times, offices are coordinating, with the Shipping Department in Supply Division for forecasts of supplies, as well as identifying local and regional manufacturers to produce masks and gowns.

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

**Algeria**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- UNICEF and WHO continue to work with the Ministry of Health to support implementation of the communication strategy of the national preparation & response plan to COVID-19, including the development and dissemination of messages and material through social media, television, announcements by community leaders and key influencers.
- UNICEF and WHO are supporting the Ministry of Health in developing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention in preschool and school classes, intended for professionals.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and The Algerian Muslim Scouts (SMA), UNICEF is supporting the launch of an online national competition (from 10 April to 20 May) for children aged 6 to 12 years old as well as for adolescents on developing creative videos on how they are experiencing the COVID-19 crisis. The contest was launched via social media and TV.
- UNICEF is partnering with WFP and UNHCR to strengthen RCCE in the Sahrawi refugee camps, including through the dissemination of advice and tips on parenting and through awareness communication campaigns via local radio in the five camps to reach 40,000 children and their families, in cooperation with the NGO CISP (International Committee for the Development of Peoples) and Parent-teachers associations.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- UNICEF will enable 40,000 Sahrawi refugee children and their families to engage in good health practices by distributing hygiene products.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
- UNICEF is engaging with the Government to strengthen the capacities of the Child Protection hotline in responding to emerging child protection cases, and support the Algerian Ministry of Education? in providing IT servers to support distant learning.
- UNICEF is supporting providing technical and financial support for the preparation, recording and dissemination of televised courses for 30,597 primary and lower-secondary school children.

**Djibouti**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- UNICEF continues to support the governmental action to intensify mass media and social media messaging; misinformation tracking and mitigation. Across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram 65,242 individuals were reached and 46,099 were engaged. A qualitative research is in preparation and an interactive feedback mechanism through social service centers is being put in place.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- UNICEF is pursuing its support to the Ministry of Decentralization, the City Council and local communities’ authorities to expand handwashing stations with soap and sanitizers in more public spaces and in the most vulnerable areas of the cities (Djibouti and regions).
- UNICEF is supporting the set-up of WASH services (water supply and sanitation infrastructures) in government-led quarantine sites for migrants and land travellers across the country. The first quarantine site is being set up in Ali Sabieh region (with a capacity of hosting 600 migrants and land travellers per day).
- UNICEF is supporting the construction of WASH infrastructures in new quarantine centres that will host over 600 migrants returning from Gulf state.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- UNICEF is engaging with the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)-National Nutrition Program to support the dissemination and implementation of appropriate breastfeeding recommendations in the COVID-19 context, including the provision of replacement feeding for infants unable to be breastfed; UNICEF is also securing the essential commodities for maintaining child survival and maternal health services in the country.
- In addition to the procurement of 50 oxygen ventilators, UNICEF is now moving to provide broader procurement services to the Government to facilitate the procurement of PPE using resources made available to the Government from the World Bank.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
UNICEF’s support has led to a comprehensive e-learning national programme to maintain the continuity of education for the most vulnerable and for population with no access to digital resources or media. Additional funds mobilized through the Global Partnership of Education are available to support this very critical initiative.

UNICEF has joined the Government in providing a social protection safety net for the most vulnerable households through a voucher system during the critical lockdown period.

**Egypt**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

- Together with partners and since the start of the response, the RCCE joint multimedia awareness raising campaign on COVID-19 has reached more than 8.5 million users, with 6 percent engagement rate (commenting, posting, etc.) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.
- 15 Government staff from Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), and Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) were trained on data collection, as part of the Rapid Pro deployment. The Rapid Pro as well as the SMS hotline, which is being created to support health frontline workers, community social workers and social volunteers, aim at (i) reaching the most vulnerable families to report on COVID-19 cases for rapid intervention, (ii) supporting healthcare personnel to help mothers and children at health units and (iii) monitoring of social protection assistance to vulnerable families.

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

- UNICEF procured personal protective equipment (PPE) from local markets (incl. 502,000 surgical masks, 2,000 N95 and other supplies) for health workers in hospitals nationwide. UNICEF also placed the order of 97,000 gowns offshore. More than half of the supplies were distributed, benefitting 5,000 health service providers for a week.
- UNICEF has provided 6,000 litres of chlorine for disinfection to 400 hospitals in support of IPC, estimated to benefit approximately 320,000 people.
- UNICEF is conducting an assessment on WASH needs in child home care institutions (water supply, toilet conditions, child density) including emergency preparedness. This is being currently implemented for 600 institutions hosting 22,000 children.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

- WHO/UNICEF guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding was disseminated to health service providers in primary health cares, and through social media. A total of 11,000 caregivers for children aged 0-23 months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling through social media and community platforms.

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

- UNICEF developed protocols on COVID-19 prevention/response in care institutions for children without parental care. In collaboration with Clorox, disinfectant supplies for 67 care institutions are being distributed, benefitting 3,000 children.
- UNICEF mobilized phone lines for case managers within the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) case management units. Case managers will be carrying out their work through phone services covering five governorates in Egypt, except for high risk cases that require physical presence. A monitoring plan was developed to ensure quality of services.
- Nearly 1,000 children on the move have been provided with remote psychosocial support and awareness messages using WHO, UNICEF and Terre des Hommes materials. Materials are being adapted for online use.
- **Social Protection and Public Finance:** UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN agencies, provided an advisory note to the Government of Egypt on the overall impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy and poverty, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups. The advisory note also identified children as a group that will likely be affected the most in several areas of their wellbeing by the response measures the country is undertaking. The note identifies and prioritizes allocating additional financial resources to quickly expand massively existing social protection interventions for the poor and near poor.

**Gulf Area (Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

- In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), UNICEF conducted an orientation session with the Child Advisory Council of the Supreme Council for Women and Childhood. The discussion covered misinformation related to COVID-19, nutrition, physical activity, mental well-being, with a focus on children, adolescents and young people.
- UNICEF provided technical support to the UAE Emirate of Sharjah (Sharjah Child Friendly Office) for the launch of a social media campaign that started on 9 April, providing specific messaging to families on COVID-19.
- UNICEF GAO in UAE partnered with a member of its Leadership Circle, Mariam Farag (head of MBC Al Amal) in an e-event, “Empower Hour with MBC Hope”. The panel addressed health issues during the pandemic and featured UNICEF MENA’s Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor.
Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF GAO in Qatar partnered with Education Above All/Educate A Child, Qatar Foundation, World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), UNESCO and UNICEF to prepare a coordinated proposal outlining the support to be provided to Ministry of Education and Higher Education. It addresses immediate, medium and long-term issues in the pandemic response.
- UNICEF GAO in Qatar supported the Qatar Social Work Foundation (a national civil society organization) with a press conference (7th April) to raise awareness about their services and their efforts to scale-up resources to address violence against women and children.
- UNICEF and the UN system in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait have produced joint proposals to Governments on how agencies can further contribute to mitigating the impacts of the pandemic.

Iran

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Jointly with the Government of Iran, UNICEF has developed Psychosocial Support messages and communication materials targeting parents, to be distributed through social media.
- An SOP for online service provision and awareness raising for children with disabilities in State Welfare Organization (SWO) rehabilitation centers has been developed with UNICEF’s technical support.

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

- Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF has provided 26.5 metric tons of PPEs and other health supplies for health workers in Iran in the most affected provinces. A total of 10.5 metric tons were provided during the reporting period.
- UNICEF is in the process of procuring supplies for the Social Welfare Organization to address medical equipment needs for 13,800 street children, 8,088 children living with disabilities and 10,006 children without caregivers in Nurseries and Child Care Centers throughout the country. UNICEF is diversifying local and international procurement channels.

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

- UNICEF is supporting the Social Welfare Organization on the provision of education and child protection services, including psychosocial support services, for more than 50,000 children living with disabilities in rehabilitation centres across the country as well as children without effective care givers living in childcare development centres.
- UNICEF and UNESCO provided technical support to the Ministry of Education in the selection of appropriate distance learning platforms for students.
- UNICEF is supporting the provision of remote counselling services on parenting for parents of children aged 4-9 and 10-19 years in different settings i.e. health centers, SWO’s social clinics, youth houses, AWBCs and schools etc., including provision of service package and remote capacity building.
- UNICEF will be supporting Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) and Ministry of Sport and Youth (MOSY) to enhance their capacity in the provision of tele-counselling utilizing Remote Stepped Psychosocial Care and Support (ReSPCT) approach for adolescent, youth, their parents, teachers and students in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Iraq

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF reached 4 million social media users and gained 6,000 new followers across its social media platforms from 2-7 April.
- 44 mobile health promotion teams are being supported for social mobilization activities in Baghdad, Najaf and Kerbala (areas with the highest COVID-19 caseload). A total of 10,000 brochures were provided to Earthlink internet company for distribution in their offices. Posters, leaflets and banners promoting COVID-19 hygiene awareness are being displayed and distributed in IDP camps in Dohuk and Erbil.

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

- UNICEF has collaborated with the Ministry of Health and authorities in Ninewa Governorate to carry out disinfection campaigns in three IDP camps (Jeda’a, Salamya and Hamam Al Alil), covering 55,276 people, including 25,400 children. A similar campaign is planned for camps in Anbar and Dohuk governorates
- Although challenges continue with the procurement of 30,000 items of PPE due global supply constraints and transportation issues, about 4,000 items of PPE were procured locally and distributed to healthcare workers.

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

- Ongoing advocacy with the Ministry of Justice has already resulted in 50 children being released from pre-trial detention and reunified with their families. However, challenges remain regarding the caseload of children allegedly affiliated with Non-State Armed Groups.
• Individual/family-based psychosocial support is taking place for about 6,000 children (50% girls, 50% boys) and 4,000 caregivers in IDP camps in Erbil.

• The Ministry of Education in Kurdistan is planning to reopen schools from 2 May 2020. UNICEF is supporting preparations as well as with distance-learning through online platforms, TV and mobile networks. TV was assessed as the more accessible and preferred option for distance learning.

• Social Protection and Public Finance: UNICEF advocated and provided technical support to operationalize Government plans to scale-up temporarily Social Safety Net benefits to an additional 2 million households, mainly daily wages, those who lost their jobs due to the COVID 19 crisis, in addition to poor households with children as well as IDPs. This was officially announced by the Government of Iraq last week.

Data collection and analysis of secondary impacts on children and women

• Evidence of the impacts of COVID-19 is increasing, with a significant rise in the number of calls to on-line and phone support lines for domestic violence. Demonstrations against the stringent lockdown measures have taken place in Basra, including by daily wage workers.

• UNICEF collaborated with the World Bank and the Ministry of Planning on a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19. The results indicate that between 5.5 million and 7.2 million people will likely fall into poverty, with 70% of the poor and new poor being under the age of 24 years.

Jordan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)


• UNICEF is supporting the community-level national campaign currently reaching 1.5 million people through TV channels (daily), around one million through social media (weekly), and 3.5 - 5 million through WhatsApp (weekly). An awareness video registered 114k views on YouTube and reached more than 400,00 people through the Royal Health Awareness Society Facebook page. Outreach efforts are being expanded through sharing content with 56 local community organisations and around 155 social media pages and groups.

• A National Movement for Engagement and Volunteering (NAHNO) platform to mobilize young people to engage in the COVID-19 emergency response was established. A total of 2,473 young people have joined the platform and 3,003 volunteering opportunities were offered so far.

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

• UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the procurement of medical and PPE for frontline health workers in the amount of US$ 1.7 million through local suppliers and the UNICEF supply division in Copenhagen. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) with the immediate purchase of essential PPEs for workers of water and wastewater facilities. UNICEF also continues the emergency trucking of safe water to areas in the north and central governorates where supply interruptions were reported benefitting over 500 people in remote areas.

• Together with partners, the distribution of soap bars and cleaning kits was completed in Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps, reaching over 10,400 and 6,500 families respectively. In the Emirati Jordanian Camp, over 1,300 families received two bars of soap and cleaning kits. Systematic disinfection on incoming vehicles and communal WASH facilities are in place in refugee camps. UNICEF also increased water supply across all camps, benefitting all 113,000 refugees and 15,000 residents at the Berm.

• In coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF donated 100,000 bars of soap to a national NGO - Tkiyet Um Ali (TUA), which will benefit 25,000 vulnerable families.

• Quarantine areas (separated by gender and accessible for people with disabilities), including latrines and showering areas, were established in Azraq camp and King Abdullah Park. The WASH hotline remains operational, responding to concerns from the community and ensuring uninterrupted access to WASH services.

• Outside camps, 7,200 living in informal tented settlements and thousands in host communities were reached with key hygiene messages through social media platforms.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

• Over 600 children with disabilities in refugee camps are receiving rehabilitation home visits from trained refugee volunteers to ensure continuity of care.

• Through UNICEF support and in coordination with MoH, 200 community health volunteers in Mafraq and Irbid governorates are collecting prescription books from beneficiaries and helping them to receive drug refills for non-communicable diseases.

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

• UNICEF, IFRC and WHO supported the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health in finalizing COVID-19 School Guidelines.

• UNICEF reached over 19,800 children (aged between 6 and 17 years old) with distant homework (worksheets) support, 6,000 adolescents with life-skills messages, and over 5,300 parents with positive parenting messages and activities (also benefiting over 5,800 children under the age of 5). The families of 1,193 children with
disabilities started to receive weekly phone follow-up and guidance to care for their children (explanatory video recordings, voice recordings and links to educational applications). Over 6,000 adolescent boys and girls are continuing accredited non-formal education through distance learning. Distant interactive support is provided through WhatsApp groups created and managed by the Makani Program front-line staff.

- UNICEF has transitioned its technical and vocational curriculum to online modalities. A total of 402 youths are doing technical and vocational training online, while 75 young people including 64 young women are participating in advanced digital skills training across four governorates. UNICEF partners are also reaching 13,641 young people across Jordan with a condensed Life Skills curriculum and supporting 1,159 young people with data packages and tablets to ensure their access to informal learning and training opportunities through our programmes.
- With the addition of 18,000 children to UNICEF’s ‘Hajati’ (my needs) cash transfer programme, a total of 30,000 children will be covered by cash support for the month of April 2020.
- UNICEF provided hygiene kits to the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to be used in all residential care institutions including shelters. UNICEF has also supported MoSD with drafting Guidelines for Care Institutions for continuity of care during COVID-19. Additional financial assistance is provided for families to support their foster children, and to ensure continuity of services for children with disabilities through tele-coaching on a weekly basis.
- The Government of Jordan with the financial support of the World Bank will be implementing through the National Aid Fund (NAF- the main safety net program in Jordan) a package of cash support of: temporary cash transfers (six months) to 200,000 vulnerable households; and temporary benefit top-up (six months) to the 55,000 Takaful programme beneficiaries, as well as to 100,000 beneficiaries households of the NAF AID programme. UNICEF in collaboration with the World Bank will be providing technical assistance to the process of expansion, specifically on the required changes in Management Information System (MIS) and the targeting formula, in addition to the operational support to the process of enrolment and payments of new beneficiaries.
- The Jordan River Foundation (JRF) Child and Family Helpline supported by UNICEF and UNHCR was officially launched, offering guidance to families and children with parenting tips, psychosocial support, and supporting referral to the national Family Protection Department or other case management service providers for child protection through a single number “110”. UNICEF is also supporting provision of psychosocial support through IMC hotline.

**Lebanon**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

- UNICEF produced an anti-stigma movie and developed awareness videos on COVID-19 with sign language to reach individuals with disabilities. In coordination with the COVID-19 Migrant Core Group (WHO, ILO, MSF, and IOM), UNICEF will provide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and targeted messages for migrants. Data Collection for rapid Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey started.
- UNICEF is developing key messages for the upcoming Ramadan that will be disseminated in coordination with DRM, the higher councils of religious entities, and implementing partners.
- During the reporting period, comprehensive quarantine guidelines for municipalities were finalized. To ensure support for children separated from their parents/caregivers due to hospitalization and/or isolation, child protection concerns were incorporated in the guidelines and the operational plans, and UNICEF is also looking to partner with the Syndicate of Social Workers. UNICEF is supporting the development of training modules for municipalities and partners on the municipal guidelines as well as on the Inter-Agency refugees guidelines, to be conducted with Lebanese Red Cross.
- Capacity building for municipalities, scouts, community groups is ongoing. UNICEF also agreed to support the training for General Security Office at airport in in the context of on-going repatriation of estimated up to 20,000 Lebanese from abroad.

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

- UNICEF with support of partners reached 270,000 Syrian refugees living in Informal Settlements and Collective Shelters through a door-to-door hand washing awareness campaign supported by distribution of soap. UNICEF is currently preparing for wave II, which includes the distribution of disinfection kits/bleach, to start next week. To date, 152,496 individuals were directly engaged and reached with accessible information on COVID-19 and targeted messages on prevention and on access to services, and 140,595 individuals were reached with critical WASH supplies/hygiene items and services.
- The assessment of WASH facilities in identified isolation centres in overcrowded settings is ongoing.
- UNICEF is coordinating with UNRWA for the distribution of disinfection kits in Palestinian refugee camps. UNICEF has increased the quantity of water provided by water trucking to refugees.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

- The MoPH, WHO and UNICEF formally agreed to delay the planned measles campaign due to lockdown and confinement of children, possibly until Q3/Q4 depending on the evolution of the situation.
- UNICEF is supporting temporary health care facilities with WASH services for refugees in the North.
Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- A Guiding Framework for the Education Sector is being developed on Children enrolled in Non-Formal Education, with three main components: learning, child wellbeing and health awareness and promotion.
- A Learning Readiness Rapid Assessment (LeaRA) was conducted with parents/caregivers of more than 25,000 refugee children enrolled in NFE activities with the sector partners.
- A joint Task force was established between Education Sector and Child Protection (PSS Committee) to convey consistent COVID-19 wellbeing messages to children and parents/caregivers on a weekly basis. As part of the “Qudwa” (Arabic for role model), e-launch of communication plan is planned to address impacts on child protection.
- UNICEF is continuing awareness sessions on COVID-19 through social media, including for children with disabilities, and is coordinating a mental health campaign with MOPH to target youth and adolescents.
- Social Policy and Public Finance: technical assistance has started to support the emergency social assistance response by the Government of Lebanon. UNICEF is also supporting the establishment of social assistance through Lebanon’s first national cash transfer programme, to reach 100,000 households of poor and vulnerable groups (with World Bank and WFP), as well as advocating for suspension of payments/fees for taxes, fees and primary health consultations for children, pregnant women, elderly, and those with disabilities.

Libya
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF contributed to the production of approximately 50,000 awareness materials (leaflets and posters) disseminated in public areas.
- UNICEF reached approximately 100,000 viewers through seven videos broadcasted on national television channels.
- Since the beginning of the response, about 56 COVID-19-related posts have been published on UNICEF’s social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). A joint video message highlighting key messages, prevention measures, and precautions reached around 107,000 social media users. Three TV broadcasts and one Radio interview were conducted with UNICEF Libya’s Special Representative and Health Officer, reaching 100,000 viewers/listeners.

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

- Together with partners, UNICEF is completing an assessment of areas of concern, particularly detention centres both in the Eastern and Western part of the country, collective shelters, and health facilities assigned for the management and isolation of COVID-19 cases.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF distributed 10 Interagency Emergency Health kits to 10 hospitals in the west and south, mainly in municipalities affected by migration flows, allowing the continuity of essential mother and child healthcare services to a population of around 100,000 people for three months.
- UNICEF received 122 tons of shipments with essential medicines and supplies that will be distributed to 34 health facilities in 26 municipalities.

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

- UNICEF is working with the sector partners in the development of the COVID-19 education strategies. In consultation with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has developed a response plan to support distance/online learning of children.
- UNICEF supported a review of partners’ implementation modalities to adapt to the COVID-19 situation. Local hotlines have been activated for information-sharing and awareness raising.

Morocco
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF continued via its social media platforms to support to national communication efforts. A total of 137,224 people have been reached with messaging reinforcing prevention, positive parenting and promotion of support services for child protection.
- UNICEF increased communication with followers on social media, addressing their concerns and requests for clarity on prevention and case management issues. 37,700 engagements with UNICEF’s messages have been recorded.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF is supporting the development of a strategy to strengthen PHC capacity and to ensure continuity of service delivery for Reproductive Maternal and Child Health services, including the activation of a community health mechanism.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
• UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in the production of pre-primary and primary education lessons for Radio, TV and distance learning platforms, with a focus on Preschool and Parental education.
• UNICEF is continuing its partnership with Mohammed V University to provide remote psychosocial support to children in residential care facilities and social workers via WhatsApp, targeting vulnerable children in contact with the law and children living without parental care to overcome fear and anxiety.
• 53 vulnerable children, including 27 children on the move or without parental or family care were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.

Social Policy and Public Finance
• Through technical support, UNICEF successfully advocated for the rollout of a temporary cash transfer to RAMED beneficiaries (subsidized health insurance which has a database) who are in the informal sector and who have lost their work or face a considerable loss of their income. Phase 1 is expected to cover approximately 2.6 million households (6.75 million beneficiaries).
• UNICEF supported the cost and beneficiary assessment for phase 2 a temporary cash transfer programme, launched on 10 April and targeting citizens who have also lost their jobs in the informal sector because of the crisis but do not benefit from RAMED (expected to benefit around 1.5 million households and 3.9 million beneficiaries).
• UNICEF advocated for the waiver of 3 months water and electricity bills for poorer households. The Government postponed payments of all said bills during the COVID-19 emergency.

Oman
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• To ensure that COVID-19 messages reach the large migrant labour community in Oman, UNICEF is supporting the newly established inter-ministerial RCCE committee to develop a targeted Social Behaviour Change Communication strategy. UNICEF has developed tailored content which will be disseminated in 10 languages including Hindi and Bangladeshi, via SMS text notifications, online community networks, and influencers who have appeal and trust within these communities.
• UNICEF continues to support the inter-ministerial RCCE committee and other existing structures by amplifying messages through social media, radio and TV; and involving social media influencers and the private sector to increase the appeal and reach of messages, and to address the spread of misinformation. From 1-12 April, messages reached as many as 15,000 people through social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn) and via an Instagram Live radio interview.

The State of Palestine
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• In coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and partners, UNICEF continued to produce and disseminate materials to some 3 million people, including but not limited to, social media, media outlets, mass awareness campaigns, and health promotion.
• UNICEF conducted and published the first Rapid Assessment Report as part of the (RCCE) plan, aiming to measure the public awareness, perceptions and knowledge on the COVID-19 in the State of Palestine. The survey was presented to partners and socially active youth networks through social media platforms, targeting the largest possible representation of age, gender and diversity. Between 25 March and 2 April, a total of 765 Palestinians (56% female and 44% male) responded to the survey.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
• UNICEF procured offshore a total of 60,000 protective gowns and 13,000 surgical masks. The delivery of PPEs to the MoH was completed on 2 April.
• UNICEF delivered approximately US$ 18,000 worth of essential hygiene supplies for IPC to key implementing partners to ensure the implantation of IPC measures during the delivery of maternal and child health and nutrition, and early childhood development and intervention services.
• UNICEF distributed 14,420 bottles of drinking water (21,630 litres) in 20 quarantine centers in Gaza, benefitting 2,060 people.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
• UNICEF delivered 70 trauma bags (35 to West bank; 35 to Gaza Strip) to the MOH to address the needs of health facilities in essential medical supplies during the COVID-19 crisis.
• UNICEF is engaging with the Nutrition sub-cluster working group to support the protection of infant and young child feeding through development of leaflets on importance of exclusive breastfeeding in the COVID-19 crisis and dissemination across Gaza quarantines.
• To ensure continuum of services for anemic young children in Khan Younis governorate in Gaza, UNICEF released 29,000 prepositioned bottles of Ferrous sulphate oral solution and delivered to the PHCs.
• UNICEF is expecting the delivery of 30 oxygen concentrators (15 for Gaza and 15 for West Bank) to support national capacity for case management.
Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF supported the development of the Ministry of Education (MoE) Contingency Plan on continuity of education for all children during school closure.
- UNICEF and a partner have developed a mechanism for monitoring children’s access to online learning through the ministry of education e-learning platform. As of 1 April, 106,558 children are accessing the e-learning platform.
- Online training sessions reached 96 psychosocial counsellors and service providers in West Bank and Gaza. A training manual was developed for tele-counselling for frontline workers.
- UNICEF reached children in East Jerusalem with various mental health and psychosocial support activities: 1) 72 children (incl. 13 children under quarantine with remote psychosocial support; 2) 781 children (403 boys and 378 girls) with remote remedial education; 3) 500 children (250 boys and 250 girls) with remote sport activities through recorded and live videos; 4) 20 children with special needs (10 girls and 10 boys) with practical sport trainings through live videos, 5) 39 children (25 girls, 14 boys) with remote recreational activities.
- In Gaza, 424 children benefited from remote case management support, while 174 children accessed remote individual counseling services. At least 121 children received group activities including life skills and expressive arts, while around 155 children received psychological first aid services. Remote awareness raising on COVID-19 has been provided to 470 children and 307 caregivers.

**Sudan**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF supported the Government of Sudan in the establishment of an online information centre and in amplifying prevention messages (three videos and 50,000 messages) through traditional mass, social and on-ground media including using 86 megaphones reaching 12,900 people in various communities. Mosque-based announcements were made in 105 locations. In addition, 14,435 posters and 37,386 flyers were distributed.
- UNICEF is providing technical support to behavioural monitoring and has engaged two telecommunication companies to increase the outreach of messaging. Messages on COVID-19 are being sent to over 13.5 million mobile phone subscribers daily.
- UNICEF has trained about 200 individuals from the Resistance Committees (civil society organization), community leaders, religious leaders on COVID-19 key information and messaging.
- UNICEF stepped up its engagement with the National TV and Radio to produce educational materials and child-friendly programs on COVID 19 including, radio interview of key UNICEF staff delivering COVID-19 messaging for urban population. Public and private TV and Radio channels are giving primetime air slots to raise public awareness on COVID-19 with a reach estimated at 60% of the population of Sudan, which stands at approximately 43 million.

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

- UNICEF has delivered additional 2,500 sets of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to the Federal Ministry of Health to support the national capacity for infection prevention and control.
- UNICEF contributed to the establishment of 6 medical isolation centers in South Kordofan, West Kordofan and North Kordofan through the provision of three months WASH supplies including soap, chlorine powder and tablets, hand sanitizers and water storage tanks.
- UNICEF, WHO and SMoH conducted state-level WASH assessments of isolation centers and response plans are currently being prepared for Khartoum, North Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, South Darfur, East Darfur, and Blue Nile states.
- A preliminary Risk assessment on COVID-19 transmission in public places was conducted for Central and West Darfur States.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- New guidelines and procedures were developed to deliver immunization, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), and support infant and young child feeding programmes. These include enhanced infection prevention and control measures at clinics and centers and increasing rations of RUTF for severely acutely malnourished children to reduce the frequency of visits required. Additional RUTF has been procured to prevent stock-out.

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

- About 2,000 children who attend Khalwa Islamic schools and were unable to return to their families due to the COVID-19 containment measures were reunited with their families across different states in Sudan with more to follow in coming days.

**Syria**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
During the reporting period UNICEF Syria CO reached over 1.6 million people nationwide through social media campaign (in total 1.8 million people since March). In addition, UNICEF supported the placement of 720,000 IEC materials with key prevention messages in pharmacies, bakeries and on water trucks nationwide.

Partnerships with the Ministry of Awqaf (Ministry for Religious Endowments) and religious leaders were established leading to the dissemination of COVID-19 key messages through 500 mosques (out of 2,000 total). IEC materials were also disseminated to churches ahead of Easter holidays.

UNICEF engaged in a partnership with Takamol, a Syrian social services application used for social services, which covers more than 1.5 million households for a reach of four million people to provide a Q&A space on COVID-19 as well as COVID-19 pop-up messages.

In the northeast, a customized plan of action was developed as an interagency response by UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. A rapid assessment exercise was conducted in the camps, including Al Hol, and training sessions were conducted for 75 volunteers, raising awareness on referrals of suspected cases to health facilities.

UNICEF is promoting young people’s engagement, including through training and in the provision of protective personal equipment (such as distribution of 6,000 pieces of communication and awareness materials in Qamishli). Youth volunteers supported by UNICEF have launched digital challenges and surveys around COVID-19 (Facebook posts on COVID-19 related messages that reached over 124,000 people).

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

A total of 1.6 million soap bars are being procured by UNICEF though multiple channels: an agreement was reached with WFP to include soap in their monthly food distributions targeting 3.4 million people, starting 15 April onwards. 50,000 soap bars were distributed in Rural Damascus during the reporting time in collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

UNICEF continued delivering WASH services, supporting the operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure (including the provision of disinfectants) across the country. Water trucking quantity per capita was increased where required.

During the reporting period, 13 WASH assessments were undertaken in possible quarantine/isolation centers throughout the country; light rehabilitation activities are expected to start next week to address the gaps identified. Contingency stock of IPC items (chlorine, cleaning kits, disinfectants) for health centers were ordered, as well as supplies for 73 residential centers for children.

Jointly with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, UNICEF completed a training on IPC for implementing partners and procured personal protective equipment for partners and for the overall health sector, covering 10 per cent of the total sector needs (237,180 personal protection equipment items distributed). In addition, UNICEF responded to the request by Ministry of Health to supply basic kits of essential medicines to the quarantine center in Dweir (Rural Damascus).

WASH in North West

At both cluster and program levels, humanitarian agencies were advised to enhance water supply in informal settlements/camps from 30 to 35 litres per capita per day, as against usual cluster minimal norm of 25 lpc/d. All UNICEF and SCHF partners were asked to adhere to the revised norm.

The content of hygiene kits was revised with doubled quantity of soap and detergent to support increased handwashing by UNICEF and similar guidance is being issued to the cluster members.

Hygiene communication materials were printed and distributed to selected implementing partners. Soft copies IEC materials were made available to all cluster members through cluster dashboard to support further printing and dissemination directly inside Syria, notably throughout social media.

A rapid assessment checklist on WASH infrastructure/services for health facilities was developed. Field-testing through selected NGOs and cluster field monitors will be organized. Once finalized, it will be made available for both Health and WASH Cluster members for their use as well. Such findings will help us to select/prioritize health facilities, where WASH infrastructure/services need to be improved. Priority should be given to the PHCs/Hospitals serving high population density locations.

Both Health and WASH cluster members, are engaged in sterilization services, using chlorine disinfectant at a concentration level 0.05 per cent.

A first batch of 156,000 bar soaps has been delivered to WFP warehouse in Mersin for inclusion in the food parcels that will be distributed in Syria in the next coming days. As second batch of 144,000 bar soaps will be delivered before end of April.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

UNICEF is assessing the impact of the COVID-19 control measures (such as movement restrictions) on the utilization of essential services and support to necessary mitigation measures. Mobile teams have resumed operations in Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Qamishli while parts of Damascus governorate are still limiting the services to fixed health centers.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
UNICEF provided 146 hygiene kits (including 32,400 soap bars and 6,900 hygiene materials) and awareness materials to residential care centers (juveniles, childcare, disability, elderly).

UNICEF engaged in high-level advocacy with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour on children in detention centers, including release from detention and blanket approval for case managers to access these children.

A virtual parenting and psycho-social support programme was established by UNICEF and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to raise awareness on violence, provide psychosocial support to families and encourage the adoption of positive parenting behaviour to end violence against children.

In terms of case management, UNICEF is providing support to the establishment of a virtual case management protocol to provide remote support to families through following up on ongoing child protection caseload through phone calls and WhatsApp messages.

UNICEF and implementing partners are providing support to the Ministry of Education to prepare for the reopening of 11,500 schools for 3.5 million children, by providing sanitation materials, water trucking, school cleaning kits, and awareness raising materials. UNICEF supported the printing of a total of 400,000 coloring and exercise books and the provision of 40,600 sets of recreation materials for children living in areas with low connectivity.

UNICEF is working with WFP to jointly provide e-vouchers for hygiene items for children in accelerated learning programmes. This joint response is expected to be launched by mid-May and will target around 45,000 children in eight governorates (Aleppo, Damascus, Hasakeh, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous).

UNICEF is working with partners and donors to expand its ongoing cash transfer programme for basic needs to reach 100,000 more families in impoverished urban areas with a one-time emergency cash assistance.

**Tunisia**

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- As part of the national RCCE response plan for COVID-19, UNICEF supported the production of communication and social mobilization materials on psychosocial support and hygiene practices, for dissemination on TV, radio, social networks and urban signage. In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF supported the launch of two hotlines through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Elderly (MFFE).

- UNICEF designed and launched jointly with the MFEE a communication campaign to raise awareness on COVID-19 and managing confinement, targeting parents, children and adolescents.

- UNICEF provided technical support to the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases in designing and publishing an epidemiological situation bulletin.

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

- UNICEF is currently distributing supplies to 62 health centers (comprising 248 medical staff), 21 schools (2,700 children and approximately 300 educational staff) and 18 centers hosting children including:
  - Nearly 800 PPE/hygiene kits for medical staff (overall, masks, gloves etc)
  - Over 4,000 individual hygiene kits (soap bars, towels, hand sanitizers)
  - Over 100 institutional WASH kits (including over 200 consumable and non-consumable items, as well as equipment to improve hand washing units, water tanks, taps and washbasins)

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Jointly with WHO, UNICEF supported the development of the costed COVID-19 response plan of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and is providing technical support to the National Coordination Mechanism of the MoH.

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

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in developing a costed sectoral response plan that includes five pillars (coordination, learning opportunities, communication campaigns, psychosocial support of children and parents, and the preparation of the reopening of schools).

- UNICEF established a partnership with an NGO to promote life skills during the lockdown for 20,000 adolescents.

- In partnership with a private call center, mobile phone companies and the MFFE, an application and a hotline were launched to provide psychological support to approximately 50,000 families and their children. The service is provided by a group of 10 trained psychologists; a further 10 psychologists will be trained.

- UNICEF continues to advocate for the release and reunification of 350 adolescents deprived of their liberty and for the use of alternatives to detention.

Social Policy and Public Finance

- In coordination with the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, UNICEF is advocating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to finance the health COVID-19 response as well as three months social protection measures (cash transfer) targeting approximately 262,000 children from low income families.

- UNICEF is working with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and partners (World Bank, KFW, BAD, JICA and the EU) for a possible financing of a comprehensive medium-term budget support programme to include
Yemen
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- About 524,000 people were reached through 128,358 house-to-house visits by 8,750 community volunteers – applying physical/social distancing guidelines following the reactivation of community engagement interventions by the authorities.
- UNICEF published COVID-19 posts, cards and videos on different social media platforms including WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, reaching more than 7.5 million views.
- Scaled-up use of ICE materials: 1,000,000 posters, 2,000,000 leaflets, 1,050 Banners and 410 Billboards as well as branding of long-distances buses and use of 240 vehicles mounted with megaphones reached an estimated five million people.
- Health experts trained in RCCE responded to 8,920 calls on questions and concerns on COVID-19 (5610 women, 3310 men) on 10 local radio stations.

 Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- UNICEF partners have distributed 3,407 hygiene kits, including soap, in 49 quarantine centers for over 10,000 returnees in six governorates. UNICEF is providing support with the installation of water tanks, the installation of emergency latrines, emergency water trucking and the distribution of hygiene kits. Assessment and preparedness activities are ongoing in other locations identified by authorities.
- UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health jointly completed forecasting for PPE. UNICEF Yemen is coordinating with the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen for procurement and prepositioning of available PPE in country at governorate level.
- UNICEF is reviewing all available in country and in pipeline supplies that can be used of COVID-19 preparedness and response including PPE and ventilators.
- UNICEF is in process of establishing 10 isolation centers.

 Continuity of health care services for women and children
- UNICEF supported the analysis of physical stock-taking of vaccines across the country for vaccination activities for at least the next three months. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) to distribute vaccines and supplies.
- Nationwide, 10,000 health workers including 2,000 community health workers (CHWs) are planned to receive sensitization sessions on COVID-19. A total of 337 health workers out of 1,400 health workers (HWS) in the Southern governorates were sensitized.
- Sales Orders (SOs) for the procurement of PPE were raised and are expected to be delivered to Yemen by end of April. Additional SOs were raised for the new COVID-19 test kits, to be delivered to Sana’a and Aden.
- Technical support (supervision, on the job training, adopting proper hygienic measures, distribution of PPE) is being provided to primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities to manage outpatient and inpatient nutritional care for severe and acute malnutrition.

 Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
- With funding from the Education Cannot Wait First Emergency Response and Global Partnership for Education, the Task Force led by the Ministry of Education with the support of UNICEF and Save the Children Internation (SCI) has developed a distance learning system.
- UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, has developed messaging on COVID-19 prevention, mapped out case management referral services, and shared key child protection guidelines and referral mechanisms with health workers with access to quarantine centres in Yemen in order to allow them to identify and refer child protection cases to response services.

 Coordination
UNICEF Regional Office and 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.

An inter-agency regional Technical Working Group on RCCE has been established through UNICEF support and is being hosted out of the WHO-EMRO Incident Management Support Team (IMST). Participating organisations include WHO, UNICEF, IFRC, UN Women, IOM, and the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET). A regional framework on risk communication and community engagement is being developed to harmonise technical approaches, leverage joint resources, and accelerate support to national actions and coordination. Partner mapping is underway. A
A rapid assessment of UNICEF supported RCCE efforts at country-level was completed and is providing the basis for customized technical support and follow-up.

Advocacy and Partnerships

During the reporting period, UNICEF has called for the release for all children in detention who can safely return to their families or an appropriate alternative, wherever they are in the world. This is particularly relevant to the region where deprivation of liberty of children, including migrant children, is frequently practiced.

Children deprived of liberty are one of the most vulnerable groups of children in focus of UNICEF’s advocacy and programmatic efforts. They are coming under an increased risk of contracting the virus given the conditions they live in, their often-poor health and the shortages of hygiene supplies and clean water. Decreased staff presence and restrictions on contacting contact families and legal representatives may put children under additional risk of violence, abuse and deprivation from support options.

In a positive development, some Governments, such as Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the State of Palestine, Iran, Sudan and Jordan, are starting to put in place measures to release children from places of deprivation of liberty. Challenges remain for their reintegration, due to a reduced social worker numbers and their ability to access families due to movement restriction. Release measures often do not equally benefit children in immigration detention and those detained in the context of national security. UNICEF MENA – at country and regional levels - will continue to advocate for all children to be released from detention wherever they are across the region.

Building on an already strong partnership with the World Bank (WB), UNICEF has in the last couple of weeks accelerated its engagements with the WB to discuss opportunities to support Governments in their response most notably in expanding social cash transfers for vulnerable families and children, WASH and Education.

UNICEF MENA Regional Office gathered 21 mobile operators from 15 countries across the region, collectively representing access to more than 225 million mobile phone subscribers to accelerate the Covid-19 response work that is already underway to help parents and children protect themselves from the virus, deal with the challenges of confinement, facilitate distance learning, and support the delivery of cash to vulnerable families.

External Media

STATEMENTS

Don’t let children be the hidden victims of COVID-19 pandemic—UNICEF

Children in detention are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and should be released

PRESS RELEASES

UNICEF is providing supplies and technical support to fight COVID-19 in Lebanon

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

Resorting to food for comfort?

Despite school closures, children in Syria find ways to continue learning

Easy, affordable and healthy eating tips during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak

Easy, affordable and healthy eating tips during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak

Appeal for a global cease-fire

How to talk to your child about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Response
Coping with coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
6 ways parents can support their kids through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak
How teenagers can protect their mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19)
Everything you need to know about washing your hands to protect against coronavirus (COVID-19)

RESOURCES
UNICEF Middle East and North Africa website
Regional RCCE Multimedia Assets
A Tribute to Healthworks for World Health Day
CRC@30 Package: a thinking kit for children while in lockdown
Album "11" UNICEF’s produced children’s songs

Resource mobilisation
UNICEF Middle East and North Africa appeals for US$ 92.4 Million to support partners’ efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through provision of critical supplies and adequate health care and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease.

Funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus. To meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF country offices have reallocated some flexible funds from regular resources to kick start the prevention activities and procure urgent emergency supplies.

Next SitRep: 30 April 2020

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* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 25/03/2020 for a period of 9 month. Funds Available are as of 13/04/2020.

In addition to above funding received against the HAC, the Global Partnership for Education funded the response to the amount of $823,900.