Funding Overview
Since the launch of the global HAC, the humanitarian needs and the original funding requirements have increased drastically. UNICEF estimates that its financial requirements will increase by 30 times in relation to the March 2020 HAC appeal. This revised figure will feed into the next Global HAC Revision.

Highlights
- Campaigns for risk communication and community engagement have reached over 350,000 views.
- UNICEF has coordinated the delivery of over 300,000 units of personal protective equipment benefiting staff at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.
- Technical and financial support has been provided to the Ministry of Education to develop materials for continuous education.
- UNICEF has provided 54,000 liters of safe water daily to migrants in Humanitarian Reception Stations in Darien, benefiting over 2,500 people consistently during the crisis.

Situation
50 days after the detection of the first positive COVID-19 case in Panama, rate per 100,000 inhabitants is 141, the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Schools remain closed since March 9 and reopening dates have not yet been announced. A total quarantine continues (since March 24) as well as closure of all non-essential businesses. All international entries and exits to the country remain suspended.

2,522 extracontinental migrants in transit through Panama are unable to continue their journey to the North due to closure of borders. 27% are children and adolescents. Up to date, 143 positive COVID cases have been reported in the Darien border, of which 5 are from the host community and 27 are migrants. Increases in conflict between migrants, the host community and local authorities have been reported. Due to media pressure and advocacy from the municipality, a dialogue was established between the central government and representatives from the migrant community. An agreement to establish additional shelter space was reached. The Ministry of Health is currently providing health services to migrants affected by the virus.

Situation in Numbers
- 6,021 (141 cases per 100,000) Number of COVID-19 positive cases at national level
- 167 Number of deaths from COVID-19
- 2 Number of deaths from COVID-19 of children and adolescents
- 905,065 Number of children impacted by school closings
- 2,522 Number of migrants that cannot continue their journey due to closures
- 27% Of migrants that cannot continue their journey are children
UNICEF in Panama coordinates its response within the framework of the United Nations Country Team, now operating as a Crisis Management Team. Interventions are conducted by informing the Foreign Ministry and in coordination with government counterparts, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Government, the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family (SENNIAF) and the National Border Services (SENAFRONT). The private sector is an important ally for the execution and amplification of the actions described.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
Risk communication campaigns with general information about COVID-19, hand-washing and respiratory hygiene has been developed and disseminated over social media, reaching 353,424 views. These messages have been replicated by over 25 influencers and UNICEF has been mentioned in top-tier media more than 55 times. UNICEF Panama’s COVID-19 landing page is becoming the source of the most reliable and up-to-date information for children, parents, caregivers, and educators. UNICEF will continue risk communication through accurate cultural and gender appropriate messaging.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
54,000 liters of safe water are provided daily to migrants staying in Humanitarian Reception Stations in La Peñita and Bajo Chiquito (Darien), benefiting over 2,500 people. Storage tanks and jerry cans were provided to each family, while 250 baby kits and 250 child kits has been delivered. With technical assistance from UNICEF, community water committees have been strengthened to ensure sustained provision of water and storage systems. Given that the government has agreed to establish additional shelters in Darien due to increases in COVID19 cases amongst the migrant community, UNICEF is currently planning on how to increase water provision and ensure safe accommodation. Mattresses and food will be needed in these new shelters. 2,500 water, sanitation and hygiene kits will need to be delivered monthly until migrants are able to continue their journey. In addition, UNICEF will continue advocating with local authorities for the continuity of vaccination, nutritional and other health services for migrant children in borders, including services for the prevention of zika and dengue during the rainy season.

UNICEF has delivered personal protective equipment to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education (surgical masks - 23,000 to Ministry of Health and 3,000 to Ministry of Education; gloves - 276,000 to Ministry of Health). Hygiene and cleaning supplies (400 units of liquid chlorine, 360 packs of powder soap, 500 units of alcohol gel and 4,000 gloves) were also delivered to the Ministry of Government, benefiting 411 adolescents deprived of their liberty, as well as to 2 doctors and 3 nurses from the Ministry of Health assisting migrants in Darien. Delivery of additional supplies (N95 masks and others) is currently being procured.

For more information about our response in migration, see a specific Situation Report in this link: https://www.unicef.org/panama/documents/reportde-situaci%C3%B3n-de poblaci%C3%B3n-migrante

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
To ensure continuous education for all children in Panama, UNICEF has provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education for the development and dissemination of distance-learning materials, including a storytelling program broadcasted daily, printed guides and coloring kits delivered door-to-door to children in rural areas, and educational messages disseminated online, in national TV and radio. The storytelling program, established in collaboration with a private book retailer, reached 59,798 in its releasing week, while educational messages have reached 154,371 viewers online only. Through an alliance with Millicom, educational messages are broadcasted in their TV channels and storytelling programs are available in VOD (video on demand) for cable TV clients. UNICEF will continue supporting the Ministry of Education to ensure continuous education to children, by developing materials, adapting best practices from other countries in the Region, and contribute to the training of teachers for distance learning.

UNICEF is monitoring rates of violence against children and gender-based violence in close coordination with the UN Gender Task Force. A national contingency plan for protection services during the crisis has been revised by UNICEF, making sure reporting mechanisms for children and adolescents are established. UNICEF is also providing technical
support to the National Secretariat of Children and Adolescents (SENNIAF) for strengthening preventive and intervention services during the crisis. Potential collaborations with NGOs and the private sector are being explored in order to establish platforms to prevent cyberbullying. Finally, for the protection of migrant children, UNICEF has provided technical assistance to SENNIAF for interviewing 4 unaccompanied adolescents in Darien and will continue monitoring processes to ensure their protection.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
Safe water is provided daily to migrants and the host community in the border with Colombia as a direct contribution of UNICEF: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj5QjBXL0c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj5QjBXL0c)

Next SitRep: 22 May 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: [www.unicef.org/lac](http://www.unicef.org/lac)
UNICEF LAC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uniceflac](http://www.facebook.com/uniceflac)

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