UNICEF in South Asia
COVID-19
Situation Report No. 6

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Highlights

• The number of cases in South Asia region has more than doubled over the past week from 8,338 cases to 18,127 cases. In Bangladesh the cases spiked by more than 800% from 88 cases in the previous week to 803 cases. In India the cases have also doubled from 4,169 cases to 10,363 cases. Similarly, the cases in Afghanistan have almost doubled from 367 cases to 714 cases. In Pakistan more than 2,483 new cases have been reported bringing the total to 5,988 cases.

• As part of the containment and prevention studies, most countries in the region have extended their lockdown to the end of the month or beginning of May. UNICEF country offices continue to engage with governments and advocate for social protection for the most vulnerable population to mitigate the negative and collateral impacts of the pandemic.

• Over 346 million people have been reached across the region with key COVID-19 prevention messages as UNICEF country offices continue to support governments in promoting risk communication and community engagement.

• In collaboration with governments and partners, UNICEF has 2.3 million people with critical WASH supplies and services for infection prevention and control.

• With the high demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) combined with export ban from major markets, procurement for these critical supplies for small countries is a major challenge and UNICEF is exploring local alternatives to source the supplies.

• UNICEF is appealing for $80.4 million to reach 60 million people with risk communication, critical supplies, adequate health care, continuous education, child protection and social protection services to address other social impacts of the disease.

UNICEF’s Response Budget in South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Critical Supplies &amp; IPC</td>
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UNICEF Appeal 2020
For South Asia
US$ 80.4 million

Situation in Numbers

9789
No. of new cases over the past week (WHO April 06, 2020)

18127
Total cases of COVID 19 (WHO April 06, 2020)

500,000,000
# of targeted population to be reached with risk messages by UNICEF response (ROSA Response Plan 2020)

94,000,000
# of targeted children to be reached with home learning (UNICEF 2020)
Funding Overview and Partnerships
UNICEF South Asia appeals for US$ 80.4 million to support government 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. UNICEF has so far received $18.2 million from the CERF, Asia Development Bank, DFID, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Japanese Government, World Bank and Facebook Foundation. In view of the worsening situation, additional funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to scale up intervention for preparedness and response to stop the spread of the virus and support government service delivery system and respond to social impacts of the pandemic.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
Over the past week, South Asia region has seen the number of confirmed cases more than doubling again for the third consecutive week from 8338 cases to 18127 cases. Bangladesh has seen a drastic increase of more than 800% from 88 cases last week to 803 cases. Similarly, in India the cases have more than doubled from 4169 cases to 10363. In Pakistan more than 2483 new cases have been reported bringing the total to 5988. Across the region the case have also increased steadily with 714 cases reported in Afghanistan; 218 cases in Sri Lanka, 20 cases in Maldives, 16 cases in Nepal and 5 cases in Bhutan. In Pakistan there are concerns regarding the protection of health workers as the number of doctors who have contracted the disease has increased to over 100 doctors being infected. According to data analysis of affected people from Pakistan, 68.3% of the affected population are men because they are exposed more as they tend to go out of their homes more than female counterparts. There are reports of increasing number of schools being used as quarantine facilities in the region which UNICEF is advocating against the use of schools for such purposes.

![South Asia COVID-19 confirmed cases April 08 - 14, 2020](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200323-sitrep-63-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2176eb7a_2)

**Source:** WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps

Partnership and Coordination
UNICEF regional office and country offices continue to engage and work in close collaboration and coordination with WHO, governments, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centre for Disease Control, INGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies such as Asia Development Bank, World Bank and others. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka, UNICEF is actively engaged in the UNCT coordination mechanism to support the government response. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal where government led cluster or sector mechanism remain active, UNICEF co-leads the WASH sector, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection and is engaging in the inter sectoral working group to develop joint inter-sectoral preparedness and response plan. In Sri Lanka, as the lead of the UN Social Protection working group, UNICEF has been convening meetings with international funding institutions including IMF, World Bank, ADB, EU, and UN agencies to discuss support to the government response to COVID-19 with a particular focus on providing social protection assistance to the most vulnerable households. In India, UNICEF is co-leading with UNDP the UN wide rapid assessment of socio-economic impact on the vulnerable groups in coordination with UNSDF Result Group 1 on Poverty and Urbanization. In collaboration with Sphere India and other 15 state inter agency groups (IAG) UNICEF has supported the development of coordinated sectoral response plans with the government. In addition, in partnership with NDMA-Sphere India-WHO
and HCL Foundation UNICEF has launched the COVID-19 Academy to train over 100,000 volunteers over next three months to support the state governments in responding to the COVID-19.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response
The Regional Office and Country offices response plans have been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal. The key priority for the RO/CO response plans is on the immediate measures that must be undertaken to ensure preparedness and response actions to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in each country focusing on the following areas; (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) critical medical and Water Supply and Hygiene (WASH) supplies and services, (3) provision of healthcare and nutrition services, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services, and promoting cash transfers to address the social impact of the epidemic. Recognizing the specific impact on women, adolescents and children, the strategy includes engagement with women leaders and organizations to reach communities, and integration of measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response across sectors.

Building on UNICEF country wide networks, ongoing programs and vast network of partners, UNICEF in South Asia stepped up its engagement in risk communication and community engagement relying on its know-how on hygiene promotion, social and behaviour change communication and experience from previous epidemics, including in this region (SARS, H1N1 etc).

Afghanistan Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- As a lead agency for the risk communication and community engagement pillar of the COVID-19 response, UNICEF has been supporting the development and implementation of integrated awareness messages on hygiene, hand washing, community mobilization and health self-care. Various media platforms, such as TV, radio and social media are being used to reach out to the population.
- UNICEF has assisted to broadcast/telecast radio and TV spots 3,640 times in the Western Region, and 420 times in the Eastern Region, reaching approximately 456,000 people in both regions. To amplify mass media engagement, the polo program used its established contact with media to broadcast video and radio spots through 50 TV and 120 radio stations across the country.
- UNICEF Afghanistan has a strong social media base with a reach of over two million across all social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and You Tube. The total reach, engagement and video views from 26 March to 9 April has been of 5,013,696 (reach), 59,670 (engagement) and 591,866 (video views). This is in addition to over 4,897,367 social media users reached with COVID-19 messages posted on the Facebook page “Polio Free Afghanistan”.
- The polo communication network has also been engaged in the dissemination of COVID-19 prevention awareness messages, after being provided with appropriate protective gear. Similarly, Adolescent and Youth Network (AYN) members are raising awareness on prevention of COVID-19 through their networks and social media. In addition to the mass media efforts promoted by UNICEF, a national community mobilization plan has been in place in Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad reaching a total of 16,000 people.

Critical medical supply and WASH Services
- UNICEF has prioritized the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, handwashing facilities and hygiene supplies to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in formal and informal sites, urban slum dwellers, high risk communities, healthcare centers, childcare centers and other public/religious institutions.
- In Herat province, at the Islam Qala border crossing point with Iran, over 25 emergency handwashing facilities were established to promote healthy handwashing practices by Afghan returnees. In addition, the instalment of 20 latrine stalls is ongoing. Further to this, continuity of water supply provision to over 45,000 IDPs settled in formal sites in Herat is being ensured, including repairing over 50 water points.
- Six hand washing facilities with 1000 litter water storage tank and 15 stand taps were installed in Malik border in Nimroz province with Iran (4 facilities at zero point with Iran, 2 facilities near to passport check office). Soaps were also provided for these facilities. The average returnees from this border is said to be 1,100 people UNICEF and partners have installed 8 new hand washing facilities and rehabilitated 40 damaged hand washing facilities in hospitals with COVID19 treatment facilities.
- A total of 52 hygiene promoters (45 females, 7 males) were hired and trained in order to support hygiene promotion in IDP sites in Herat province.
- UNICEF has rehabilitated the water filtration system in Herat’s COVID-19 Hospital with 300 beds capacity.
- Over 5,000 bars of soaps have been delivered in Farah province, targeting the most vulnerable families and communities. The UNICEF-supported Immunization Communication Network (ICN) at the backbone of polio interventions, have also distributed over 680,000 bars of soap to 406,000 households in high risk polio areas, and 1.2 million additional bars are in process of distribution and 6 million are under production.
Access to continuous education and child protection services

- UNICEF has also stepped in with the provision of child protection services, particularly psychosocial support and psychosocial first aid for children, adolescents and caregivers, including sensitization of care givers and tools to address stress and anxiety, particularly during the lockdown or when a family member gets sick.
- UNICEF also delivers activities in the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre, in detention centers and care institutions. As part of its child protection efforts, UNICEF has provided over 7,000 bars of soap and nearly 7,800 masks to promote handwashing practices and the safety of children across the country.
- UNICEF ensures its support to programmes has a strong gender equity and adolescents programming lens. Recognizing the extent to which disease outbreaks differently affect women and men and other social groups, including adolescents, UNICEF ensures efforts are made to understand the primary and secondary effects of COVID-19 on different individuals and communities and to create effective, equitable policies, preparedness and interventions.
- Since the start of the crisis, UNICEF has supported the Directorate of Women’s Affairs in Herat and Farah provinces with targeted distribution of soap and sanitizers to women, in order to meet their dignity and sanitary needs. A total of 1,050 women have benefited from this initiative.

Bangladesh Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- 11.5 million people were reached this week through 234,186 religious’ leaders with messages on handwashing and locations of soap distribution for those who cannot otherwise afford it.
- 7.3 million young people were reached through a call for action to #StayAtHome on social media and by influencers and celebrities on the entertainment platform Bongo from 30 March to 9 April.
- 7.2 million people have been reached to date on ‘stay at home’ messages through mobile miking across 64 districts with support from their District Information Offices.
- 55,000 people in camps in Cox’s Bazaar were engaged this week on the promotion of behaviours to prevent COVID-19 transmission through respiratory and contact routes. With access to camps reduced, activities continue through community-based volunteers and structures.

Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- UNICEF supported the development of a national Health Management Information System (HMIS) real-time COVID-19 response data dashboard, with case reporting and facility readiness reports updated daily.
- UNICEF provided guidance to MOHFW for strategic choices of COVID-19 case management equipment. The lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) and oxygen equipment is a major concern.
- In Cox’s Bazaar, UNICEF provide safe water in its eight camps through piped networks (143,468 people) and deep tube wells (96,532 people). Meanwhile, partners disinfected 2,840 latrines and 1,294 bathing facilities as part of risk prevention mechanisms over the past week.

Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- UNICEF supported 35 personnel from 12 district-level service providers to access online training on the use of PPE and COVID-19 case management.
- A country-wide rapid assessment of the preparedness and functionality of all 366 units offering treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition indicates that 73 per cent of facilities are non-functional. Of the functional facilities, only 2 per cent are fully functional and only 5 per cent of units have a sufficient supply of therapeutic milk. As a follow up, in coordination with MOHFW, district-wise micro plans are in development and supplies of therapeutic milk will be provided at the earliest.
- In Cox’s Bazar, the completion of planned immunization sessions last week ranged from zero per cent in Chakariya and Pekua to 100 per cent in Moheshkali, Ramu and Ukhiya. The average across the district decreased to 62 per cent compared to 71 per cent the week before.

Access to continuous education and child protection services

- The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education started airing recorded classes for primary grades through national television on 7 April. Airing for secondary grades started from 29 March and will continue in the coming weeks. The initiative is targeting over 30 million children. UNICEF provides technical and financial support to plan and coordinate remote learning with multiple partners.

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2 A fully functional facility has dedicated staff, an adequate supply of F-75, SAM guidelines, weighing scales and registers. The results of the assessment indicate that 67 per cent of units do not have a dedicated nurse; 95 per cent do not have a sufficient supply of F-75; 52 per cent do not have weighing scales; 50 per cent lack the SAM guidelines document; and 36 per cent lack SAM registers.
• This week, the Child Helpline received over 10,000 calls, which is now a four-fold increase. The majority of calls were for psychosocial and mental health (46 per cent) or COVID-19 related (42 per cent), while others related to domestic violence, child marriage and sexual exploitation.

• In Cox’s Bazar, 3,114 Burmese Language Instructors and 2,306 Learning Centre Management Committee members are supporting the dissemination of COVID-19 awareness messages. UNICEF is working with partners to ensure they also disseminate education-related messages, informing caregivers to support children to engage in learning activities while learning centres are closed.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

• As a participating agency in the Joint Programme for Social Protection for tea garden workers, UNICEF participated in a coordination meeting to explore the possibilities to re-programme intervention in response to COVID-19.

• The government is planning a mass distribution of food rations tailored to adults’ and children’s needs. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), UNICEF and partners are reviewing the content of the package to make it more nutrient dense and UNICEF is also adapting nutrition messages for the packages.

• The first coordination meeting on social protection related to the COVID-19 response took place on 8 April with DFAT, DFID, EU, GIZ and the World Bank. UNICEF, UNDP, WFP participated in this meeting with UNICEF highlighting the need for ensuring child-sensitive social protection to the most affected families.

Data Collection and Analysis of collateral impacts of COVID-19,

• An online survey indicated that 90 per cent of respondents can correctly recall COVID-19 prevention measures while 66 per cent felt they were likely to become sick with the new virus. Their main source of information is social media and TV; Participants reported that they require additional information such as the cost of COVID-19 tests, their nearest hospital for treatment and technical details of social distancing.

Bhutan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

• UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries to promote risk communication and community engagement.

• UNICEF and partner launched a social media campaign on young people and COVID-19 including COVID19Diaries calling on young people to share their stories on how COVID-19 has impacted their lives


• Reached 364,495 people through social media with messages; 1,646,355 impressions & 220,000 engagements

• Approximately 90% of the population reached through engagement of about 10,000 influencers (districts administrators, District health officers, health assistance, local leaders, community representatives, religious persons, schoolteachers, volunteers, young people, media and CSOs) on COVID prevention and care.

Critical medical supply and WASH Services

• Prior to COVID-19, handwashing facilities in public places were practically non-existent. Now temporary handwashing stations are a new change in the vegetable market and other public places around the country. UNICEF in partnership with MoH, SNV and local governments has completed 11 permanent and more handwashing facilities in Thimphu Thromdey, Phuentsholing Thromdey and Samtse district to encourage and remind about 10,700 people to wash hands to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

• The handwashing communication package (includes a poster highlighting five critical times to handwash with soap, a reminder poster with the message “wash hands for you and your patients safety” and a sticker for keeping soap and sanitizers at designated places) is ready for distribution to 28 hospitals and 259 primary health centers across the country, which is expected to benefit 5285 health workers around the country.

Supporting continued access to essential health care and nutrition services

• Two PCR machines have been procured along with 4800 kits of reagents. Procurement for traditional vaccines (BCG and Penta) for next 6 months period has been initiated. Reprogrammed budget from JCV is used to fill the gap for Pentavalent vaccine.

• Total USD 50,000 approved from Gavi (USD 10,000 reprogrammed and USD 40,000 additional allocation) to support immunization program during CVOID-19 pandemic. Reprogramming of USD 25,000 from JCV is approved for procurement of Penta vaccine.

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3 Around half of the respondents were from rural and municipality locations. The majority (68 per cent) of respondents were aged 18 to 35 years, followed by 36 to 49 years (21.3 per cent); elders/retired (2 per cent) also participated.
• Immunization strategy during COVID-19 situation (without lockdown, partial lockdown and complete lockdown) developed by MOH with technical support from UNICEF.
• Routine activities of AWP 2020 revised considering the engagement of health service providers and managers with COVID-19 response.

Access to continuous education and child protection services
• Till date, 24 (12 male and 12 female) adults and 37 children (15 boys and 22 girls) have contacted the Sherig Counselling—an online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The 37 children were referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided counselling services.
  UNICEF has supported the government to the following guidelines; guidelines for the Provision of Remote Psychosocial Support to parents or caregivers during COVID-19, guidance on the Provision of Remote Child Protection Case Management, guidance on Parental Support to Children during COVID-19 and Child Protection Case Management Guidance Overview during COVID-19, to support counsellors, mental health professionals and case workers providing services to children in need
• Engaged scouts in reaching out virtually to collect stories from adolescents and youth in quarantine.
• Developed resource package for adolescents and youth who are in the quarantine, focusing on providing healthy coping mechanisms, establishing a state of normalcy despite the major disruptions in daily routines, meaningful time-use to focus on growth and development and building resilience to deal with the situation before and after quarantine.
• UNICEF Youth Ambassador engaged to advocate and educate young people and general public on COVID-19. A song has been produced with Youth Ambassador on hope in the time of COVID-19.

India Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
• Approximatively 4 million frontline workers (both health FLW and other platforms like NSS etc.) mobilized and trained on COVID-19 response and community engagement approaches (hybrid of virtual and offline training at block level using social distancing principles)
• Social media reach for the past week has been 41 million. Content about COVID-19 appeared on social media feeds 11 million times on average every day during this seven-day period and was seen by 5.9 million on average per day. Total reach for the campaign has been more than 272 million. Content has focused on countering social stigma and discrimination, and on positive parenting, MP and faith leader video messages have been shared on social media with overall positive responses from target audiences.
• 7 million people reached through RCCE with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 (national, district and community level). This includes IEC materials development and use, Community Engagement with PRI, SHGs, Religious leaders, Digital CE platforms (WhatsApp, U-Report etc.)
• The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) was supported with development of a guidance for social distancing post-lockdown and development of a database to support preparations for a digital exhibition at Rastriya Swachhata Kendra on handwashing, hygiene and social distancing. MoJS also released guidance on safety and use of PPE for sanitation workers.
• 474,000 teachers/education officials in 7 states and 17 million parents and SMC members were reached with risk reduction messages.

Critical medical and WASH supplies and Services
• Emergency Medical Relief Division of MoHFW, and CHILDLINE, the emergency wing of the MWCD, have formally approached UNICEF for support in Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment. A forecast has been submitted to UNICEF SD that includes PPEs, Ventilators and diagnostic kits (Xpert CoV 2 Assays)
• UNICEF is in the process of initiating the procurement of thermal scanners at the request of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
• Bihar Rural Livelihood Programme (BRLPS) was supported to set up hand sanitizers and disinfectant production units in 2 districts and is engaging Sanitary Napkin Production Unit established in partnership with Jeevika (BRLPS) and CSO Healing Field Foundation in Sheikhupura – to produce face masks.
• Jharkhand office is leveraging installation of handwashing stations and UP office is facilitating supplies of soap.

 Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition
• The UNICEF health team across states have supported the adaptation and roll out of SOPs and Guidelines for continuity of critical health services
• Health team, in partnership with CP, is working with the Indian Psychiatry Society and the National institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHNS) to ensure psychosocial support for the HCWs for continued services

• Advocacy and drafting of state circulars and guidance note on continuity of services for Anganwadi Services jointly with Development Partners – shared with MWCD

• Capacity development of TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) on COVID-19 specific and sensitive behaviors including nutrition.

Access to continuous education and child protection services

• UNICEF is engaging at states level for continuity of education. Approximatively 2 million children were reached in five states through various platforms/media. For Ex: In Madhya Pradesh, 233,000 reached through a one-hour program with Radio Mirchi to support educational activities in language, mathematics and life skills

• With UNICEF advocacy and support, the Supreme Court decided to take the issue of care of children under State protection in the light of COVID19 suo moto, issuing as a comprehensive order with specific instructions for their protection. As a result, all States Departments of Women and Child Development have issued specific guidance and are stepping up monitoring systems. Many children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) or in detention-type Observation Homes have been released.

• An online orientation of the child protection functionaries on Covid-19 was organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) with support of UNICEF on 7 April. The nationwide training was attended by over 16,000 participants from District Child Protection Units, Child Care Institutions (CCIS), Child Welfare Committees, and Juvenile Justice Boards, and other CP structures. Similar trainings will be rolled out at the national level.

• UNICEF is working with the district administrations on assessment of families and identification of unaccompanied and separated children across States. Psycho-social support (PSS) is being provided in 34 camps in Uttar Pradesh and in Madhya Pradesh with UNICEF technical assistance. In Assam, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, UNICEF has supported the development of integrated guidelines which include child protection issues including PSS, provisions for child friendly spaces, and prevention of stigma.

• In Telangana state, partnership forged for psycho-social counselling, with the support of 30 counsellors from Association of Psychologists, Action Aid, Dr.Reddy's Foundation and APSSF. Toll free number is functional and reaching out to front line workers and affected population.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

• UNICEF is advocating for a set of concrete policy recommendations towards horizontal and vertical expansion of existing cash transfer schemes to the national and state governments (UP, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, AP & Telangana, Odisha, Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Assam)

• Advocacy is ongoing to promote Gram Panchayats' tracking and monitoring of whether the Social Protection package for the COVID-19 response is reaching beneficiaries. This forum is also critical to awareness raising including risk communication.

• Fiscal impact analysis on states’ finance is ongoing (Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, UP) to inform the state supplementary budget.

Data Collection and Analysis of collateral impacts of COVID-19, (2-3 bullet points)

• UNICEF is co-leading with UNDP the UN wide rapid assessment of socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in coordination with UNSDF Result Group 1 on Poverty and Urbanization. Collaborating with the national network of NGOs across the country, community based Socio-economic monitoring (not survey) of the impact assessment is under planning stage; Civil Society network of organizations and its volunteers is being worked out.

• UNICEF is supporting several state governments to undertake state level assessments of the socio-economic situation of vulnerable families

Maldives Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

• The risk communication messaging continues to advise the public on the importance of physical distancing, healthy eating, and exercising while staying at home.

• Daily messages and infographics are disseminated on UNICEF Maldives social media. The theme this week has been on calling young people to action using the toolkit from UNICEF’s Voices of Youth initiative, to promote the fight against misinformation and stigma, and to promote community support and spirit to take all necessary actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Access to continuous education and child protection services

- UNICEF supported Tele-classes (Telekilaas) for all secondary grades (from Grade 7 – 12) continued last week. The target children consist of 14,852 students in the grades 9 - 12 and 12,750 students in grades 7 and 8. Some schools provided home-based learning for grades 1 – 6 across the country using Viber and online platforms such as Google Classroom. Starting 12 April, Grades 1-6 will also be reached with teleclasses three times a week, targeting around 44,000 students.
- The MoE started monitoring students' participation in the teleclasses through the use of QR codes.
- Preparations are underway for the provision of home-based learning for children with special needs attending Government schools. Special educational supplies will be distributed to this category of students.
- The Ministry of Education is developing play-based learning interventions for children in pre-schools. The National Institute of Education’s (NIE) shared with parents, through Youtube, guidance on the upcoming play-based learning for pre-school children. In its initial phase, play-based learning will target around 5,000 children out of a total of 13,850 pre-school children.
- The Ministry of Education established a learning repository last week where the respondents are aware of COVID-19. Around 90 percent of the respondents were aware about handwashing and more than three quarter of the population are aware of mask use and avoiding the crowd as the protective measures.
- Partnership signed with the community radio broadcasters and Nepal Television to produce and broadcast COVID-19 prevention messages. The radio programme is on air from 10 April 2020 reaching out to more than 20 million people across the country.
- In the first two weeks of April 2020, messages on COVID-19 had additional 8.5 million reach through UNICEF Nepal social media channels engaging nearly 200,000 people. The total reach through social media is 17 million and engagement is 2.4 million since March.
- UNICEF Nepal is supporting the Ministry of Health and Population to conduct daily virtual press briefing by providing technical support as well as key messages. These virtual press briefings have more than 1 million views in total in the last three weeks and have been very helpful for the journalists to get information and fact while maintaining social distancing.
- UNICEF Nepal has started #ReadAloud storytelling initiative. This is an initiative to engage children through telling stories n. mostly in the Nepali language.

Nepal Country Office:
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Citizen pulse survey on COVID-19 completed and findings shared with wider stakeholders. More than 98% of the respondents are aware of COVID-19. Around 90 percent of the respondents were aware about handwashing and more than three quarter of the population are aware of mask use and avoiding the crowd as the protective measures.
- Partnership signed with the community radio broadcasters and Nepal Television to produce and broadcast COVID-19 prevention messages. The radio programme is on air from 10 April 2020 reaching out to more than 20 million people across the country.
- In the first two weeks of April 2020, messages on COVID-19 had additional 8.5 million reach through UNICEF Nepal social media channels engaging nearly 200,000 people. The total reach through social media is 17 million and engagement is 2.4 million since March.
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Access to continuous education and child protection services

- With UNICEF support Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) has uploaded 6 online reference materials on their website for immediate use of grade 6-10 children in different subjects for the use of children/teachers for the online learning.
- In order to ensure school safety and mitigate the impact of school being used as a quarantine centre, CEHRED/National Education Cluster has issued a guideline and code of conduct to be adhered by the by the local government and people sheltering in the schools. As of 8 April, 274 schools are used as quarantine centre, sheltering 2806 people in province 2, Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces.
- In the leadership of CEHRD, Cluster developed education-specific Public Service Announcement (PSA) for parents and children. The announcements focus on ways of creating a learning environment at home during the lockdown period and on how to communicate with children about COVID-19 and its prevention. The messages are developed in two languages (Nepali and Maithali).
- Out of the total 444 people (210 females and 234 males) who received psychosocial support through existing helplines and telephone, 79 people (50 males and 29 females) were supported through UNICEF. Among the total callers, 31 were provided and/or referred for psychiatric consultation.
- Messages on vulnerability of children in the current situation and promotion of the use of helpline services reached approximately 15 million persons through radio in a period of one week. Messages on online safety reached 218,000 young people who were particularly targeted through social media which witnessed more than 3,000 engagements.
- Protection risk mapping and situation analysis is being carried out in selected areas of Provinces 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.
Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers
- UNICEF is planning to implement an emergency cash transfer programme jointly with the World Bank and DFID using existing government social protection mechanism. UNICEF is already discussing with Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission on economic relief packages.
- A telephone survey of social and economic impact on women and children (caregivers) was drafted and tested for implementation against 5-6,000 households in the coming two weeks.

Pakistan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- A second RCCE brief informed by combined analysis of the social and behavioural data, daily social medial sentiment data and records from the polio helpline (1166) with recommendations for both communication messages and approaches, and programme action interventions was produced. The key findings form the Brief included the concern over whether social distancing will be followed during upcoming Ramadan (month of fasting), low risk perception among young people, increasing concerns about gender-based violence and stigma directed at both corona virus infected population and health workers. The RCCE brief has been shared with the Health Minister to inform decision making on both communication and programme side.
- The Polio helpline which is being used for COVID-19 has received over 1.27 million calls and responded to a total of 163,160 and the Punjab helpline is also operational and to date has responded to 6,750 calls. The average weekly proportion of calls answered has increased from 7.4 per cent last week to 19.2 per cent during the reporting period due to the engagement of an additional 135 staff for the helpline making a total of 190, of which UNICEF supports 85, and the use of technology to divert calls to provincial call lines.
- More than 27.5 million IEC material has been printed and distributed by UNICEF and partners to support the Government. The WASH platform is branding the mobile trucks and vans with key messages reaching people on COVID-19 including hygiene promotion.
- UNICEF’s Advocacy and Communication and polio social media platforms have reached over 17.8 million people and collectively the Government and UN agencies have reached over 37.2 million people with its social media posts.
- Through existing community alliances in polio and health, 21,748 religious leaders are engaged and mobilised to (a) promote social distancing, (b) encourage praying at home and (c) promote key messages on COVID-19. The social behavioural research findings of the week showed that religious leaders have become much more positive and are promoting social distancing and a decrease in religious gatherings are being seen in some areas but continue in other areas of the country. With the forthcoming Ramadan there are concerns that people will stop adhering to social distancing guidelines and will gather together in large groups. UNICEF has responded quickly to this concern and is developing focused messages and strategy to address this concern. Engagement with religious leaders and mosque announcements will be intensified in the coming days.
- Orientation has been provided to a total of 1,274 journalists, reporters and bloggers for promoting key messages on COVID-19 and to counter negative media and Corona myths with 524 being reached during this reporting period.

Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Climate Change to hold weekly WASH sector coordination meetings both at federal and provincial levels where the WASH sector COVID-19 Response plan and the draft 4W matrix was reviewed. More than 35 WASH sector partners are taking part in the national sector coordination mechanism on COVID-19.
- An additional 65 Health Care Facilities (HCF) were provided with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services this week bringing the total number of HCF being supported by UNICEF to 109 (Baluchistan: 16, Sindh: 19, KP: 29, Punjab: 45). To date, a total of 91,486 (70,596 new) people have benefitted from these facilities across the four provinces.
- A total of 285 (129 new) communal points, (Baluchistan: 4, Sindh: 25, KP: 216, Punjab: 40) have been provided with handwashing stations enabling 377,998 people (224,757 new) to wash their hands with clean running water and soap and using existing WASH communication networks over 1.1 million people (more than 355,000 new) have been reached with COVID-19 hygiene promotion messages (Sindh: 273,400, KP: 283,000, Punjab: 572,740, Baluchistan: 37,300).
- UNICEF supported departments of health in Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab to train 1,947 sanitary and frontline workers on infection prevention and control. UNICEF received approval for an in-kind donation of 200,000 units of soap and 8,000 bottles of bleach from Unilever. The received items will to be distributed to health care facilities in Sindh and Punjab treating COVID-19 patients and will be used to enhance IPC.

Access to continuous education and child protection services
- Using a training package developed by UNICEF, a total of 353 social workforce professionals (171 women and 182 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all the four provinces.
• A total of 1,477 (75 girls, 74 boys, 674 women and 654 men) parents, care givers, children and individuals have been provided with Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP and Sindh. Currently the major challenge encountered is in reaching people in quarantine or isolation centres due to non-availability of PPEs and to address this UNICEF procured surgical face masks and hand gloves will be distributed to front line workers providing PSS support.

• In KP, 150 frontline workers (59 male and 91 female) from different health care facilities in Peshawar have been trained on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and to optimize resources and increase outreach it was agreed to use the 1700 Helpline for the provision of MHPSS services. Information about the new services available has been widely circulated through the Facebook page of the relief and rehabilitation department as well as MHPSS Facebook page. The KP MHPSS team conducted an online “parenting during COVID-19 outbreak” session reaching 19,000 people.

• In Punjab, an additional 22 staff from the Social Welfare Department received online training on MHPSS and psychosocial support was provided to additional 567 people including 85 children. In Sindh, an additional 62 people (32 men and 30 women) were trained on Psychosocial support and stigma prevention and psychosocial services were provided to 176 affected people (10 boys, 15 girls, 60 women and 91 men). To reach young people as peer facilitators, 10 adolescent girls were oriented in PSS and stigma prevention.

• A total of 151 schools in Baluchistan (14) and KP (137) have been designated as quarantine and/or isolation centres by the provincial governments although to date no patients have been admitted. UNICEF has contacted Federal and Provincial governments to recommend avoiding using schools as quarantine and isolation centres and is preparing guidelines for safe reopening of schools, including specific actions needed for schools used as quarantine centres.

• UNICEF supported the Department of Education of Baluchistan to initiate outreach activities which reached 8,105 parents (26 per cent women) with messages on the importance of learning during the period of school closure and 86 WhatsApp groups have been formed for education officials and members of school management committees and Local Education Councils as a platform for messaging on education.

• In KP, the School Safety Cell is continuously sharing key messages on COVID-19 prevention to Government education staff and teachers, selected PTCs, officials of the helpline 1122 and PDMA reaching a total of 132,439 individuals this week. UNICEF has supported the Education department to provide an orientation to 64 education officials on the basics of MHPSS through local radio and a link to the recording of the radio programme has been shared with over 100,000 education department officials, teachers and members of PTCs.

• In Punjab, support has also been provided by UNICEF to help the literacy department promote the government leaders online learning portal called TALEEM GHAR (House of Education) through the dissemination of messages to literacy mobilisers who further communicate to parents, teachers and communities reaching 216 literacy mobilisers and an estimated 16,000 parents.

• UNICEF organized orientation sessions on MH&PSS reaching out 68 participants (18 females, 50 males) with core participation from Literacy and non-formal basic Education Department

Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

• UNICEF continues to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers on IPC and, to date, a total of 5,586 frontline health workers have been orientated on COVID-19 community awareness and management of mild cases with 122 being orientated during the reporting period. Efforts to build a resilient health system in Pakistan continued with the e-registration and population profile of over 108 districts throughout Pakistan has been carried out which will support regular service delivery through frontline workers.

• In Punjab, UNICEF is also supporting a 24/7 helpline 1033 with four WMOs (Women Medical Officers) in every shift. During the reporting period, 293 calls from across the province were answered and to date a total of 6,750 calls have been answered. UNICEF is working in collaboration with the Pakistan Medical Association to train 180 frontline workers and 180 medics, paramedics and general practitioners.

• In Quetta, UNICEF provided 2 health staff to support WHO and Government’s training of Master Trainers on COVID 19 which reached 46 government health staff

• At national level, UNICEF continues to work with RCCE Task force to develop nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19. Three messages on protection and promotion of breastfeeding and promotion of complementary feeding were approved, translated in local languages and disseminated in all provinces / regions. These messages were further disseminated via Facebook with 9,300 views in 12 hours.

• A total of 37,000 cartons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) distributed to provinces (KP: 7,000; Balochistan: 8,000 and Sindh: 22,367) to ensure availability of treatment of around 37,000 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). To ensure the health workers are protected UNICEF also joined government effort to make PPE available to health workers and distributed 100 boxes of face masks (Punjab: 35; Sindh: 30; KP: 20; Balochistan: 15) and 520 boxes of gloves (Punjab: 180; Sindh: 165; KP: 90 and Balochistan: 85) for nutrition frontline workers. This will be followed by a more significant lot made of 3,330 boxes of masks and 1,480 boxes of Gloves.

• Countrywide 2,744 SAM treatment sites continue to provide services. However, service uptake is compromised by movement restriction and challenges in community based active case finding in the context of COVID-19. A total of 3,614 new SAM cases (KP 2,768; Punjab 587, Balochistan 279) were enrolled for treatment in the
Sri Lanka Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Health Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Health, WHO and RCO, launched the Phase II of the COVID-19 communication campaign on 6 April. The campaign, focusing on symptoms and caregiving, and social stigma associated with COVID-19, was aired on Prime Time TV and Radio followed by social media. On social media, by day 3, the campaigned reached 1.6 million with a total content view of 3.4 million, and with over 103,882 engagements.

Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- UNICEF procured and provided hand sanitizers to 350 MOH clinics and 10,000 field health staff; in addition, UNICEF delivered Bench Centrifuge to the Base hospital in Mulleriyawa
- Another consignment of face masks and sanitizers have been delivered to the Ministry of Education to protect 600 schoolteachers who are currently involved in developing school learning materials.
- UNICEF designed a low-cost handwashing station that will be installed in more than 1,000 schools across the country

Access to continuous education and child protection services

- The Ministry of Education (MoE), with technical support from UNICEF has conducted a rapid fact-finding assessment using a combination of both qualitative and quantitative assessment methods and the data is currently being analysed. The findings from the assessment would inform the development of the overall response and contingency plan, especially focusing on continuous learning, risk informed communication and safe school operation.
- In collaboration with National Institute of Education (NIE) UNICEF is supporting the MoE to develop learning packages for student in grade 1 and 2 to complement the web-based learning platforms. This joint intervention has a specific focus on providing learning opportunities for grades 1 and 2 students targeting vulnerable populations who do not have the facilities to access the existing continuous learning platforms.
- UNICEF introduced digital case conferencing has been adopted in Northern, Eastern, UVA and Central provinces. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on digital case conferencing was developed and was endorsed by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. The SOPs will be translated to both local languages and distributed to all divisional secretariat next week for implementation. UNICEF through this programme has already reached 63 children in need of care and protection and 18 children were supported on proper alternative care arrangements.
- UNICEF is also actively involved in strengthening the virtual psychosocial mechanism and provisions of services for children. Nationally, UNICEF is technically contributing to establish virtual psychosocial support network via NCPA psychosocial team with the partnership of NCPA, Save the Children, LEADS and World Vision Lanka. Furthermore, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) networks have been established in the Eastern and Northern provinces for effective Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) support, counselling and further referrals. Around 106 children have been already reached with PFA support. UNICEF is partnering with National Institute of Social Development (NISD) to reach the children in quarantine centres for PFA support.
- UNICEF continuously advocated for the child protection services to be considered as essential services in various platforms. As a result of this advocacy, child protection officers can reach the communities since the 2nd week of curfew. It created a larger success in coordinated service provision for children in need of care and protection. Current advocacy is going on related to release of children in juvenile homes, certified schools and prisons and increase the grace period of birth certificate registration.
- UNICEF is concerned over the dramatic increase of cruelty against children and domestic violence during COVID-19 curfew period. In the three-week period between 16 March – 7 April 2020, the proportion of child cruelty cases as a total all reported child protection complaints, has increased from 10 per cent to 40 per cent.
- UNICEF and partners are engaging parents to adopt ‘positive parenting’, a way of parenting which focuses on encouraging positive aspects of child behavior rather than punishing negative behavior and which holds children to realistic standards by using clear expectations and empowering children to become capable and resilient. To support parents and caregivers to practice healthy caregiving and to get through the current challenging situation, UNICEF has published a set of parenting tips, that can be accesses on BetterParenting.LK in Sinhala, Tamil and English: https://www.betterparenting.lk/tips-for-parenting-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.php

Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- Most of the essential health and nutrition services have been affected by the COVID-19 containment measures. UNICEF supported the MOH to issue interim guidance on the continuation of the MNCH&N services, however the adaptation of the guidance is challenging. The immunization services, nutrition clinics, weighing clinics are
restricted. As for the ANC services, the high-risk pregnant women as well as those who reached 32 weeks are receiving full clinical care.

- UNICEF in consultation with Family Health Bureau agreed to support the MOH in Documentation of COVID-19 response related to Maternal Child Health and Nutrition service re-organization and adaptation.
- UNICEF is advocating to decentralize the treatment of children with SAM without complication from hospital to the community level. The data on from East province shows that currently children with SAM have been left without treatment due to COVID-19 containment measures, while in North province the treatment and management of children with SAM has been maintained, however treatment of children with MAM is constrained due to unavailability of food supplement Triposha.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers
- UNICEF has produced two analyses papers to inform the social protection response by GoSL and the support provided by IFIs and other actors; these briefs discuss who qualifies for the initial package and the adequacy of the transfer amount.

### Funding Status

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements ($)</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources received ($)</th>
<th>Other Resources ($)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<th>%</th>
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**Next SitRep: 22 April 2020**
UNICEF continues to monitor the situation very closely and situation reports will be issued on regular basis as the developments unfold.

**Internal and External Media**
UNICEF airlifts 14 metric tonnes of protective equipment to Pakistan; [https://bit.ly/2Uc7V0y](https://bit.ly/2Uc7V0y)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Response Areas</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020 target</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td># of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
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<td># of people engaged on COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) actions</td>
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<td># of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address needs through feedback mechanisms.</td>
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<td><strong>Infection Prevention and Control (Critical Health and WASH Supplies and Services)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td># of people (health facility and community workers) reached with critical personal protective equipment (PPE)</td>
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<td># of people (health facility and community workers) trained on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).</td>
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<td># of people reached with critical WASH supplies and services for prevention and control</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access to essential health care and nutrition services</strong></td>
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<td># of health care providers trained to detect, refer and appropriately manage COVID-2019 cases in children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women</td>
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<td># of women and children receiving essential health care services including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and Gender based violence services in UNICEF Supported facilities</td>
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<td># of primary care givers of children aged 0-23 months who receive IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms</td>
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<td># of vulnerable women and children provided with essential nutritional micronutrients supplements</td>
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<td><strong>Access to continuous Education and Child Protection Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td># of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
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<td># of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
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<td># of children, parents and primary caregivers receiving community-based mental health and psychosocial support services</td>
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<td># of affected children left without parental care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
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<td># of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors including sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
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<td><strong>Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td># of households affected by COVID-19 receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grants for basic needs</td>
<td>900,000</td>
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