Highlights

- South Asia doubled its case load from 833,435 cases to 1.78 million confirmed cases and 39,579 deaths during the reporting period. A total of 947,354 new cases were reported over the past month representing 114% increase with India recording the highest percentage increase (162%) adding a total of 765,530 new cases.
- Over 8 million people including 4 million children have been displaced in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal by heavy flooding from monsoon rains, with over 700 people feared dead. There are concerns that displacements caused by the current flooding could hamper the fight against COVID-19. UNICEF and partners have started responding and delivering prepositioned emergency stocks.
- An estimated 22 million children from South Asia, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year as COVID-19 shuttered childcare and early education facilities. While, supporting re-opening of schools were feasible, UNICEF has reached 56 million children (60% target) with homebased learning.
- With the increasing rates of health workers getting infected the PPEs are critical in protecting them to ensure continued services. An estimated 171,000 health workers (61% of target) have benefitted from the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs).
- UNICEF and partners in the region have engaged an estimated 141 million people (94% of the target) have been engaged through risk communication and community engagement using various platforms
- UNICEF has reached 8.7 million women and children with essential health care services including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care.
- With increasing cases and needs, UNICEF is appealing for $283.8 million to reach 150 million people with risk communication, critical supplies, adequate health care, continuous education, child protection and social protection services to address other socio-economic impacts of the disease.

UNICEF’s Response Budget in South Asia

**Situation in Numbers**

- **947,354**
  - No. of new cases over the past month (SAARC DMC 24 July 2020)

- **1,780,789**
  - Total cases of COVID-19 (SAARC DMC 24 July 2020)

- **1,000,000,000**
  - # 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)

**UNICEF Appeal 2020**

**For South Asia**

US$ 283.8 million

**Funding Status (in US$)**

- **Funds received, $93,273,808**
- **Other resources, $23,457,480**
- **Funding gap, $167,132,772**
Funding Overview and Partnerships

As part of a Global COVID-19 Appeal, UNICEF South Asia appeal stands at US$ 283.8 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 ensuring continuous access to essential health services and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. This appeal is in line with the escalating needs due to the spread of COVID-19 in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received $93.3 million from the Asia Development Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CERF, CIDA, DFAT, DFID, Facebook Foundation, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Government of Denmark, Government of Finland, Government of Germany (KFW), Government of Japan, London Stock Exchange, World Bank, UN Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered Bank, Government of Sweden (SIDA), Unilever and Government of USA (USAID). In this COVID-19 response, partnership with IFIs has substantially expanded, with all country offices in the region benefitting from the generous contribution of the Banks to support government responses. In view of the worsening situation, additional funding is still 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 which threaten to reverse development gains.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

With over 1.7 million confirmed cases and 39, 579 deaths, South Asia region continue to experience a significant spike in the rate of new cases with little signs of slowing down soon. A total of 947,354 new cases were reported over the past month which represents an increase of 114% compared to the previous period. India recorded the highest percentage increase (162%) adding a total of 765,530 new cases. Similarly, Bangladesh recorded 90,594 new cases (74%), Pakistan added 76,221 new cases (39% increase), Nepal reported 7,366 new cases (69% increase), Afghanistan 6,087 new cases (21% increase), Maldives 783 new cases (35% increase) and Sri Lanka 751 new cases (38% increase) as shown in figure 1 below. With the relaxation of the lockdown measures across the region there are concerns that cases could spike further across the region. The rapid increase in number of cases and increasing demand for health care could completely overwhelm the health systems. While the testing capacity has generally improved in some countries, it remains low across the region. There is a major concern that the number of cases could be much higher than the current numbers. For instance, in Afghanistan 43 percent of those tested are found to be positive yet the country has tested less than 85,000 people. An estimated 22 million children from South Asia, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year as COVID-19 shuttered childcare and early education facilities. UNICEF continue to advocate for re-opening of schools where safety measures are in place while at the same time expanding the homebased learning.

Over 8.5 million people including 4 children have been displaced in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal by heavy flooding from monsoon rains, with over 700 people feared dead. The worst affected states include West Bengal and Assam where more than 5.4 million people have been affected by three waves of floods since late May. With forecasts of more rains in the coming weeks, the flood situation remains critical with most of the rivers flowing menacingly above the danger mark. The COVID-19 pandemic context creates further challenges to disaster response as measures such as continued hand hygiene and physical distancing need to be observed in order to minimize the risk of infections among the affected people, especially those displaced into flood shelters.

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1 http://www.covid19-sdmc.org/situation-report
2 UN OCHA, Afghanistan Strategic Situation Report COVID-19, No. 61 (July 12, 2020)
3 This figure is estimated based on current participation rates to pre-primary education one year before official age of entry into grade 1, within countries with data (all except Afghanistan).
4 UNICEF 2020, Child Care in a Global Crisis, The Impact of COVID-19 ON Work and Family Life, Innocent Research
5 https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/
6 http://www.COVID-1919-sdmc.org/
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), Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-19-2019 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) Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies, (3) Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management, (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.

With more cases concentrated in urban centres, UNICEF is adapting its response approaches to focus on these densely populated areas with low capacity including slums. Similarly, building on UNICEF country wide networks, ongoing programs and vast network of partners, UNICEF in South Asia has 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 polio and previous epidemics, and engagement of local leaders.

Afghanistan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- During the reporting period over 423,000 people were reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 through media. Cumulatively an estimated 8.6 million people (44% female) or 62% of the target have been reached with messages and information on COVID-19 prevention. This includes approximately 380,000 people who gained opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns on COVID-19 related rumors and psychosocial issues through forty-eight live TV and radio shows in western region.
- An additional 2,000 child protection action network members and 70 nutrition counselors have been oriented on COVID-19 responses and participatory community engagement approaches. This brings the total of trained volunteers to 14,500 individuals who can reach approximately 217,500 people.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies
- During the reporting period, additional over 100,000 people, including an estimated 45,000 children, have access to WASH facilities and hygiene kits. In total, UNICEF has provided access to WASH facilities to over 650,000 people (108% of the target) with since the response began in March 2020.
- Additional 350 healthcare providers were trained to detect, refer and manage COVID-19 cases. The total providers trained are over 9,000 (42% female) since March 2020.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children
- UNICEF supported 60 mobile health teams who provides essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services to the most remote and marginalized pockets for population. During the reporting period, over 5,200 (50% female) children under five received basic healthcare services, including immunizations, integrated management of childhood illnesses, and nutrition screening and referral services.
- Over 17,400 women accessed neo- and post-natal services including screening for danger signs, and referral for complications. The total number of women received these services is over 208,000 people (83% of the target). In addition, UNICEF is supporting dissemination of key health messages, including preventive measures of COVID-19, through Community Health Workers and Immunization Communication Networks.
- Since January 2020, 133,242 children (59,769 boys/73,473 girls) aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been provided with lifesaving treatment services. However, recent studies have shown that due to COVID-19 effects cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is estimated to increase by 13 %, which is an additional 90,000 malnourished children. This is an increase from 690,000 children last month to 780,000 children this month who need treatment in 2020. Therefore, UNICEF is advocating for urgent additional funding of $11 million to meeting increasing needs and treat additional cases severely acute malnourished children.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services
- The Ministry of Education (MoE) has announced public schools to open on 05 August 2020; however, it is likely to be postponed until early September 2020.
- Almost 35,000 people including 32,427 children (47% girls), participated in community based mental health and psychosocial support services to manage their stress and gain adjustment skills to the new normal.
- Some 799 previously identified most vulnerable girls and boys were referred to services based on their needs, including PSS, medical and livelihood interventions. These include some 289 separated and unaccompanied children reunited with their families and 30 unaccompanied children (9 girls) receiving alternative care.
• Over 87,000 community members, including 50,623 children (47% girls), increased knowledge and skills on the COVID-19 preventative measures, including prevention of stigma and discrimination along with the distribution of 3,300 hygiene kits.
• To strengthen community responses to gender-based violence (GBV) which cases have been increased during the pandemic, UNICEF provided 95 Community Engagement Committee members in western region with training on gender-based violence prevention and referral mechanisms as well as awareness raising on the importance of community’s role in protecting girls and women from GBV.

Bangladesh Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
• Overall 54 million people have been reached (62% of the target) with COVID-19 messages since the response began in March. As movement restrictions are eased across Bangladesh, messaging is focusing on the use of masks, hygiene behaviours, maintaining social distance and protective care practices for children and pregnant women. In a recent self-assessment, 72 per cent of respondents said they always use masks while they are going out, including 80 per cent of females and 69 per cent of males.
• A total of 28.5 million users were reached with social media posts on children staying healthy at home with art; a live session with a Child Protection Specialist and a child nutrition and brain development expert; a live panel discussion commemorating World Youth Skills Day featuring youth journalists, parliamentarians and Gen U partners; and a video message by child influencer Subha Shafayet Shizda urging people to conserve water and electricity during lockdown.
• UNICEF and partners continue to deploy 671 volunteers to engage a catchment population of 725,445 Rohingya refugees across 26 camps to ensure they have the knowledge and are able to practice the behaviours to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19.
• A total of 3,474 comments, queries and complaints in camps and 484 in host communities were received in the past two weeks with the majority focused on COVID-19 isolation and treatment; shelter; and sewerage systems. Where possible, complaints have been resolved and service seekers referred to service points.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies
• UNICEF continue to support the government with procurement of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to meet the critical needs of frontline health workers in government health facilities. Recently UNICEF has received a new shipment of supplies including 324,000 masks and 49,200 pairs of coveralls along with medical equipment including 280 oxygen concentrators, 280 five-way flow splitters, 150 pulse-oximeters and 400 oxygen cylinders with flowmeters. These supplies will benefit a total of 28,857 health workers (41 per cent of the UNICEF target).
• In the last two weeks, 376 service providers (172 female) were trained online on infection prevention and control (IPC) from UNICEF-supported districts and City Corporations. So far, 2,732 service providers have been trained. The government is planning a similar online rollout throughout the country for the ‘Nationwide Training on MNCH Services during COVID-19’. The first batch of master trainers will start from this week, supported by UNICEF staff.
• Since the start of the pandemic, UNICEF and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) have ensured the continuity of safe water for 7 million people (4 million females; of a target of 10 million). Systematic monitoring and reporting on water quality and handwashing practices in rural and urban areas remains a constraint. Key challenges include the human resources, digital tools and internet facilities required to conduct real-time monitoring.
• UNICEF and partners continue to seek out new and innovative ways to reinforce lifesaving behaviour change among the 240,000 refugees in UNICEF-supported WASH camps. This includes supporting 1,603 Rohingya child leaders (779 girls) who UNICEF partners have taught to share key knowledge on handwashing and hygiene with their family, friends and communities. Meanwhile, 75,045 people have been reached with COVID-19 messages through household visits and media messages during food distributions. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, 519,584 people have been reached through this platform.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children
• In June vaccinations rose across the country to 99 per cent (340,725) of targeted children, demonstrating that the reach of the immunization programme is getting back on track after missing tens of thousands of children since the pandemic began. This was a 117 per cent increase compared to April 2020, when the programme was most affected by COVID-19 restrictions. Ninety-five per cent of planned monthly vaccinations were held, up 34 per cent from May.
• Through continuous follow-up with integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) and nutrition corners and severe acute management (SAM) inpatient facilities to further increase screening and SAM admissions, SAM admissions are increasing compared to previous months. As a result of this regular engagement, as well as the availability of supplies, the facilities carrying out screening for children suffering from SAM have increased from 39 to 52 per cent in the past month. In June, 274 children with SAM were admitted for treatment, double the number admitted in May (117).
With many Rohingya refugees not wanting to get tested, community-based surveillance acts as a secondary means to identify potential COVID-19 cases. To improve community surveillance of COVID-19 in the camps, 205 community health workers (CHWs) from UNICEF-supported health facilities have been trained on community surveillance. From 5 to 11 July, UNICEF-supported CHWs reported 112 Rohingya males and 78 females as suspected case with “yellow” symptoms. No cases with “red” symptoms were reported. This surveillance has helped the Health Sector increase testing in the camps from 20-30 per week to 50-60 per week. Overall, there is no evidence of mass transmission, clustered cases or excess mortality in the camps. However, it is unlikely that transmission has hit its peak.

Access to health services in the camps remains below average, particularly for vaccination. While the number of children’s primary health care consultations increased by 34 per cent from May to June, the number of children receiving their third dose of pentavalent vaccine increased only 23 per cent. Meanwhile, the number of newborns admitted to UNICEF-support specialized neonatal care saw a further decline from 254 admissions in May to 233 in June, far lower than the 402 in January. This continued decrease has been driven by the neonatal units restricting admissions as their workers become infected with COVID-19, as well as by previous lockdowns restricting movement. UNICEF plans to conduct extended trainings on infection prevention and control (IPC) to strengthen the confidence of the healthcare workers and improve IPC measures in the hospital.

A door-to-door Vitamin-A supplementation campaign covering all 34 camps has reached 152,774 children with Vitamin A (49 per cent female; 94 per cent of target) and 107,228 mothers/caregivers (83 per cent of the target) received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) messaging. The campaign has increased the number of children screened for malnutrition to 60,782 in June. During past two weeks, 2,291 children (1,277 female) were referred to an Integrated Nutrition Facility (INFs) for treatment. While an almost equal number of boys and girls were screened for malnutrition, girls made up 55 per cent of SAM cases identified. UNICEF-supported INFs enrolled 357 children with SAM (227 female) during the reporting period.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

As of 17 July, it has been 68 days (29 per cent of the school year) that students have been out of school in Bangladesh. School closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic present an unprecedented risk to children’s education, protection and wellbeing. To mitigate the learning loss of 42 million students, UNICEF is advocating for the Government to reopen schools as soon as the safety measures are put in place. UNICEF worked closely with the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in its development of school reopening guidelines. UNICEF also helped in the translation of the Global Framework for School Reopening jointly developed by WFP, UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank so that it could be used to guide the Bangladesh framework for school reopening.

Women and children face heightened protection risks during COVID-19. UNICEF has observed that the surge in new responders (including non-traditional humanitarian responders) combined with high demand and an unequal supply of food and health supplies increase these protection risks from humanitarian workers. UNICEF recognizes that protection from SEA (PSEA) must be integrated into its COVID-19 interventions and has conducted PSEA assessments that will inform interventions to ensure the readiness of its partners in PSEA risk mitigation. So far, 72 staff from 52 organizations have participated in PSEA orientation.

UNICEF is supporting children with disabilities through all of its child protection projects, with an aim to identify children with disabilities and have them be at least 4 per cent of beneficiaries. During the reporting period, more than 500 children with disability were supported through individual casework follow-up; 365 parents and 133 children received psychosocial counselling over the phone; 56 parents were provided tips on therapeutic services for their children; and 323 families with children with disabilities received referrals for urgent relief items/supplies.

As caregivers continue to support an estimated 166,000 children to learn at home, using materials distributed to children before closure of Learning Centers (LCs), there is growing concern about the capacity of the caregivers to effectively support learning for an extended period. The focus of UNICEF in collaboration with Education Sector partners has shifted to preparing for the reopening of LCs to better support learning for children.

Child protection concerns in the camps remain high. Feedback from beneficiaries in July included worries that unoccupied children roam into unsafe areas, placing them at high risk of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, drowning, Child marriage, domestic violence and violence. UNICEF reached 11,000 beneficiaries (5,121 females) in camps (2 per cent with disabilities) with psychosocial support during the reporting period. Additionally, adolescents are being engaged through a peer-to-peer approach and community awareness initiatives. So far, 4,952 adolescents (2,328 girls, 30 per cent from the host community) have been engaged in efforts to prevent child marriage and child labour and reduce negative coping mechanisms among young people during the pandemic.

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7 People having mild symptoms of COVID-19 (Influenza-like-illness) are reported as “yellow” symptoms and people having moderate to severe symptoms (cough, breathlessness, severe respiratory distress) are classified as “red” symptoms.
Bhutan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- To date, 595,780 people have been reached on COVID-19 prevention and access to services (175,780 through digital media like Facebook and UNICEF website and 420,000 through community engagement by 17,166 influential persons and volunteers (local leaders, district health officials, school principals, health coordinators, Desuung volunteers, religious persons, youth volunteers, scout leaders, CSOs and private sector volunteers).
- Since the campaign #COVD19STORIES was launched on April 9, the CO has posted more than 225 stories from children as young as six years old, young people and adults. The campaign has received more than 350 stories and videos from young people from across the country and abroad out of which 165 stories were received from children (18 and below). The campaign provides an opportunity for children and young people to advocate for and share prevention messages on COVID-19. Additional, 13 ECCD stories from the field has been shared on UNICEF Bhutan social media pages, bringing the total ECCD stories shared since May 11 to 32.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies

- As part of infection prevention and control a total 40,000 soap bars have been distributed to approximately 188 schools (64 central schools, 52 higher secondary schools and 71 middle secondary schools) which re-opened recently reaching approximately 26,185 children.
- A total of 17 new public handwashing stations have been installed and are operational (7 in Thimphu, 2 each in Paro, Phuentsholing, Gelephu, Samdrup Jongkhar and Mongar). Construction of 28 new handwashing stations in 14 other districts has commenced.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- Schools have reopened for grades X and XII with effect from 1st July. The schools are following the global guidelines for Safe Schools Operation. Towards addressing concerns related to remote learning and home-based support raised by ECCD facilitators, UNICEF regional office shared tips and advice to support remote learning to facilitators.
- As a result of UNICEF advocacy efforts, including in the form of an Op-Ed advocating reopening of schools and ECCD centres, government has decided to allow private ECCD centres to re-open from 15th July based on meeting certain safety conditions. Following the mapping of vulnerable ECCD children (children in nomadic communities and children who were never enrolled in ECCD centres), UNICEF will be supporting 1,382 (703 girls) vulnerable children, including 650 (329 girls) who are not enrolled in ECCD centres, with learning resources.
- Despite the provisions for ensuring continuity of education, children with disabilities are not able to access the same level of services and face numerous challenges. For example, the closing of Wangsel Institute for the deaf has meant isolation of the children due to inability to communicate with parents and caregivers and discontinuity of learning due to unavailability of specialized support at home.
- In terms of access to service, 386 children (215 girls) and 197 (110 female) adults have been referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided with counselling services through the Sherig Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- To continue the provision of the adolescent-friendly services through youth centers and to keep young people engaged during schools’ closure, 24 young volunteers (10 female) from the four integrated centres were trained on using a 3D printer, coding, and programming. They are now supporting a month-long virtual training organized for another cohort of 24 volunteers (15 female) identified from the four centers.
- To strengthen the capacities of the District/Thromde Women and Children Committee, 122 committee members (47 female) from 6 Districts and 3 Thromde (Municipal) have been trained to deal with survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in line with the national SOP on GBV. In addition, 87 front liners (33 female) have been trained to provide appropriate services to survivors of GBV, including referrals to other services and also identify and safe refer child protection cases to case management agencies.

India Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- As the lead coordinating agency for the national campaign against stigma and discrimination, UNICEF-led advocacy and social mobilization engaged 38 members of parliament, 230 members of the legislative assembly, 23,922 sarpanch, and 11,340 ward parishad through the Chief Ministers, 18 Faith Leaders and 31,000 state government officials who demonstrated public support to COVID-19 warriors in Madya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- Close to 34 million people were reached with COVID-19 messages on prevention and access to services, while over 20 million people were engaged through digital and non-digital platforms. Feedback mechanisms for two-way communication have been enabled and to date 2,069,094 people have shared concerns and sought clarifications on COVID-19 via messaging platforms, call centers, radio and phone. Social media reach was 110.8 million (5-18 July) and the overall campaign reach from 3 March is 1.3 billion. Content about COVID-19 appeared on social media

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feeds 16.8 million times on average every day during the overall 137-day campaign period and was seen by around 9.19 million on average per day.

- WASH COVID response reached a total of over 30 million people. Innovative community engagement with women Internet Saathis (friends) optimized outreach through digital platforms in Bihar. Similarly, Hello Did'-a phone-based counseling and information services was established as an attempt to promote and reinforce adoption of COVID prevention behaviors among women’ collectives/Self Help Groups.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies**

- As part of Infection and prevention control UNICEF has procured and delivered critical supplies to the government which includes Mass thermal scanners installed in seven international airports of India, 100,000 PPE kits and 552,000 N95 masks for health workers delivered to the Ministry of Health, 328 RT-PCR and RNA Extraction Thermo Fisher test kits (328,000 reactions) supplied to the Indian Council of Medical Research for rapid testing of cases.

- Through the contribution in kind from IKEA, one million triple layered masks were procured and supplied to the state governments of Mumbai and Karnataka. UNICEF has supported state governments, other development partners, and civil society organizations to reach out to 2,318,481 vulnerable populations of rural and urban areas across 15 states with critical supplies such as soaps, PPEs, and disinfectants, sanitary pads.

- A total of 400,000 individuals working at the field level have been trained in IPC and supporting provision for WASH services. This includes members of CSOs in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal; Urban Sanitation workers in Bihar; Swachhagrahis in Assam, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, PRI representatives in Chhattisgarh and Bihar and other Frontline workers in Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Rajasthan (Govt officials like PHED and Health department staff, Panchayat secretaries, and teachers from multiple states).

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children**

- UNICEF completed an assessment of 10 Hospitals for IPC using Assessment tool of Nursing Homes in Pune city, one of the hot spots for COVID-19; In the State of Gujarat, situational analysis was undertaken of Private Pediatric and Obstetric facilities in providing services during COVID-19 pandemic in 670 facilities. The findings disseminated led to a plan being developed to strengthen private sector response to COVID 19 and continuity of RMNCH+A, mainly focused on urban cities of Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Surat which have high incidence of COVID-19.

- In the State of Assam and Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF’s constant advocacy led to the RCH and Immunization program review with the district teams using virtual platforms. Social Mobilization Network created for Polio monitored 2,451 Routine Immunization sessions and reported that 99% RI sessions were held. Further 29 Staff nurses and five doctors were provided mentoring support in nine SNCUs. All these units had 100 percent designated warmers for suspected/positive newborns; 100 percent were found following IPC protocols.

- Due to COVID 19, facility-based admissions of children with Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) saw a dip or were discontinued due to facilities converted to COVID wards, staff delegated for COVID duty or drop in people attending facilities. In partnership with Development Partners – UNICEF supported the government to draft guidance on re-initiation of CMAM programs and the necessary adjustments. Admissions to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) by month indicate that while total admissions dipped from 15,656 children in January to 1,175 children in April across 13 states; they have recently started picking up 5057 children in June across 11 states. UNICEF continue to advocate for the resumption of community-based nutrition programs including re-initiation of growth monitoring activities and provision of care for children with SAM at community level.

**Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services**

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, all schools and Anganwadi/preprimary centres are closed indefinitely affecting 286 million children (48% girls). UNICEF India provides technical support to state government and partners to promote continuity of learning at home reaching around 37 million children (52% girls) out of the targeted 60 million children in 17 states. Continued support is being provided in development of digital content for broadcasting educational lessons through TV, radio and other digital mediums. Multiple pathways and outreach strategies are being developed to improve access and use of learning materials by students, especially in reaching the unreached, with the support of parents, academic coordinators, volunteers and partners.

- A total of 375,712 children and caregivers in institutions/ foster care have received information on prevention and response to COVID 19, and 3,135 children without parental care have been provided with alternative care arrangements. Supreme Court’s order on the release of children from childcare institutions (CCIs) and observation homes has created an opportunity to review the potential deinstitutionalization of children across all states in the country. A large number of children (approx. 90,000 till date in 9 states) from CCIs have been reintegrated with their families. Despite measures to control the spread of the virus, 66 girls in a Girl's Home in Uttar Pradesh were tested COVID-19 positive and were provided medical support by the government. UNICEF further supported in providing psychosocial support (PSS) services to these girls and their caregivers and helped them to recover. UNICEF also trained 1,400 CHILDLINE functionaries on providing PSS. In addition, IKEA in India donated one million PPE kits for CHILDLINE workers, COVID-19 hospitals and quarantine centers in several cities.
UNICEF has reached over 1,661,450 adolescents and youth with targeted information and messaging around prevention of COVID-19. In Uttar Pradesh, 8,726 adolescents (F- 4,557; M-4,169) and youth were engaged in understanding ways to end child marriage and how they can mobilize other adolescents and youths. Further, National Service Scheme (NSS) youth volunteers facilitated trainings on multiple virtual platforms reaching more than 20,000 youth and community members to spread awareness on how to address mental health concerns and maintain emotional well-being.

UNICEF India has finalized the Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) Programme Strategy. The EVAC strategy cuts across sectors and maximizes the convening capacity of UNICEF to support government, unite civil society, the private sector and development partners in a joint effort to end violence against children, and also factors the effects of COVID19 in the increase of violence. To amplify the message of ending violence against children, UNICEF organized a Facebook live on ‘Covid-19 & Violence at Home’ with celebrity guest panelist, Nandita Das and experts from UNICEF and CHILDLINE that reached almost 60,000 people.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

In Assam UNICEF has supported the government to include child budgeting-related indicators which is critical given the shrinking fiscal space of the government in the post Covid scenario. In West Bengal, policy recommendations on public finance have been developed for reducing the impact of on-going COVID-19 pandemic segmented into immediate fiscal measures and long-term fiscal policy actions.

Maldves Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

With all restrictions on movement lifted in June, an increase in the number of positive cases has been observed as people are going back to work, go about in their daily lives. According to HPA, between 8 - 14 July, a total of 891 samples have been taken from flu clinics, from which 76 samples (9%) tested positive for COVID-19, showing an increase in the positivity rate. Since the RCCE working group has been observing these trends, a revised RCCE plan has been developed to reengage the public to caution them on adhering to lifesaving behaviours including physical distancing, wearing a mask in public and washing hands with soap.

Additionally, UNICEF has supported the printing and installation of visuals for shops as well as billboards for the greater Male’ region and other islands to continue to engage the public with the key life-saving messages to help the control of the spread of the disease.

During the reporting period, a total of 29,242 people were engaged through engagement UNICEF Facebook. In addition, 33,741 people were able to seek assistance from the government through the emergency hotline 1676 and email address.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies

UNICEF has procured and handed over to the Ministry of Health 175 metric tons of PPE supplies worthy over $400,000, to ensure that protection equipment is readily available to the front-line health professionals responding to COVID 19 pandemic. The critical items of gowns, masks, face shields and other essential protective gear will be utilized at the designated sub-national COVID 19 facilities, by rapid-response teams, and the national level COVID facilities, ensuring safety of the responders.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children

The COVID-19 lock-down measures had affected the sustained provision of essential health services, mainly the routine immunization of children residing in the capital Male’ (an estimated 4000 children). UNICEF’s continuous advocacy with the Government, demand creation through social media, and technical support to the Ministry of Health’s national EPI and nutrition programmes had led to increased uptake of immunization, with 3,162 routine vaccines provided in the month of June 2020. However, follow-up on missed cases are still not attended to at the urban health center. The absence of a health information system and limited providers at the center continue to be constraints to regular, timely vaccination of all children.

Further, UNICEF Maldives closely collaborated with partners in the development of a Resilience and Recovery Health Response Plan, led by the Government as part of the national response and recovery plan. UNICEF strongly advocated to prioritise public health and ensuring comprehensive primary health care services as an integrated package, particularly in the urban health facilities, strengthen immunization services and improve and expand access to mental health services.

UNICEF continue to advocate for safe resumption of essential nutrition services. With easing of lock-down in July, and with the availability of protective items, growth monitoring has started in the urban health facilities. However, infant young child feeding counselling provision continues to be limited due to human resource gaps. Therefore, UNICEF will hire a technical staff to be placed within the health facility to provide IYVF counselling, inter-personnel communication on vaccines as well as follow-up on missed cases.
Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- Schools remain open for all grades in non COVID-19 islands and for grades 9-12 in islands with community transmission of COVID-19. Attendance is reported to be going down in the Greater Male area which has a high number of new infections. UNICEF and the MoE are collaborating on a “Back to School Campaign – “Ufalun Schoolah” which aims to build trust, awareness, and share information on the safe return to schools following months of school closures.

- To date a total of 1053 teachers (367 males and 686 females) have been certified and a total of 1100 teachers have completed the G-Suite training and are awaiting certification. Further, a total of 100 certified teachers have started Google Instructor Level training enabling. The increase in qualified teachers has enabled 53% of the total number of students in the country to be reached with distance learning.

Nepal Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF in collaboration with the Nepal Red Cross Society formed 174 support groups in 13 districts of 2, 5, Sudurpashim and Karnali provinces. The support groups reached out to 2,100 people (1,566 male and 534 female) with COVID-19 prevention (mainly handwashing with soap and water, mask use, coughing, spitting and sneezing etiquette, maintaining 2 meters distance) and care and respect for COVID-19 patients and returnees. The support group members have been disseminating correct information to address misinformation and rumours related to the COVID-19. More than 12 million people (58 per cent male and 42 per cent female) were reached with key messages such as a) stay home, b) wear a mask, c) wash hands with soap and water or sanitizer, d) maintain at least 2 meters distance with each other through radio, television, megaphone announcements, mobile ring tones and interpersonal sessions.

- Through the global partnership between Rakuten Viber and UNICEF, both partners have collaborated in Nepal to launch U-report Nepal and a new sticker pack that contains messages related to COVID-19, mental health, handwashing, etc. The sticker launch has helped in attracting an additional 4,500 plus U-report subscribers in just five days. U-report Nepal was launched in May 2020 and now has more than 5,000 subscribers.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies

- UNICEF handed over a (cumulative) total of 166,500 surgical masks and 2,900 N95 masks; 62,390 surgical gloves; 6,709 bottles of hand sanitizer; 2,000 protective coveralls; 2,000 protective goggles and 1,049 IR Thermometers. A total 5,550 health workers were reached with COVID protective gear (166,500 surgical masks/1 person X 30 days = 5,550). In addition, UNICEF also provided 842 blankets, 1,194 bed nets and 7 medical tents to support the designated COVID hospitals and the isolation facilities.

- UNICEF supported the National Health Training Centre (NHTC) to run a mobile based COVID-19 training for community health workers. A total of 2,176 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) enrolled and 890 have completed the mobile-based interactive voice recording (IVR) training on COVID 19. In a similar training on COVID-19 for health workers, a total of 293 out of 794 who started the training have completed all modules.

- UNICEF reached 52 Health Care Facilities (HCFs), 16 quarantine centers and 18 isolation centers with minimum WASH services and supplies/cleaning/disinfection materials in 73 municipalities of 33 districts in five provinces.UNICEF installed 102 handwashing stations, constructed/rehabilitated 124 toilets and provided critical WASH supplies to Health Care Facilities, isolation and quarantine centres. The supplies included 9,605 bars of soap, 3,875 hand sanitizers, 1687 hygiene kits, 770 buckets and mugs, 792,100 water purifier tablets, 17,600 gloves, 18,800 masks, 918 kgs bleaching powders, and 30, 775 water purifiers tablets. A total of 3,266,975 litres of water have been treated with the use of water purification tablets, benefitting 43,560 people

- UNICEF reached 65,400 households through WASH promotional and behavioral change communication activities via PSA through FM radio and miking in eight districts.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children

- UNICEF assessed continuity of essential health service (EHS) at a total of 302 health facilities across provinces (183 in province 2; 14 in Bagmati; 10 in Gandaki; 13 in Province 5 and 82 in both Karnali and Sudurpaschim). The basic health services are functional in all health facilities; however, outreach sessions are still underutilized. To date, a total of 139,408 women and children were reached with EHS that include 21,367 women with anti-natal care (ANC) service, 12,633 women with institutional deliveries and 105,408 children with vaccines (49 per cent boys and 51 per cent girls). Over the reporting period, the campaign was completed in all provinces (Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpaschim) targeting 1,157,771 children between 0-59 months of age (49 per cent boys and 51 per cent girls).

- UNICEF transported 2,000 cartons of RUTF, 250 cartons of F100 and 200 Cartons of F75 from Central Medical Stores to Provincial Health Logistic Management Centres of all 7 provinces to support 10,000 children age 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). However, there exists a current supply gap of therapeutic food for 8,000 children with SAM (8,000 cartons RUTF).

- MoHP adapted guidelines for vitamin A supplementation in the context of COVID-19 endorsed by the nutrition cluster and successfully carried out a Vitamin A supplementation campaign and reached 2.7 million children (male: 1.4 m
and female 1.3 m). A total of 422,728 (57% of total target) pregnant and lactating women received IYCF counselling via telephone in the last five months

- Delivery of essential health service (EHS) is severely compromised as the available human resources in all districts are diverted to provide support in COVID-19 laboratories and isolation and quarantine sites. Moreover, inadequate supplies of protective equipment (masks, gloves and hand sanitizer) increase the risk/fear of COVID 19 transmission among frontline health workers. There is still a 60 per cent unmet need/gap (139,408 children and women have access to EHS against the 345,000 targets as per the COVID Response Plan)

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- To ensure the learning continuity of children during the school closure, UNICEF distributed self-learning packs to 9,325 pre-school and primary-level children (around 50 per cent girls) out of the total of 20,000 targeted children from the schools which are used as quarantine sites. With UNICEF support, radio school for grades 4-8 is ongoing through 3 radio stations benefitting more than 56,000 children.

- UNICEF supported the development of a code of conduct for using schools as quarantine sites and guidelines for the learning continuity of children in quarantine sites. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to finalize the school reopening framework.

- A total of 1,114 people (653 males, 458 females, and 3 third gender) were reached with psychosocial support through existing helplines, online platforms and one-on-one counselling. Concerns over health and increasing feelings of fear, anxiety and stress from various causes, including exposure to discrimination and violence are the reasons the support was sought. Likewise, a total of 6,335 people (5,320 males and 1,015 females) from 161 quarantine centers and five isolation facilities in Provinces 2, 5, 6, 7 were reached with awareness-raising interventions on stress management and psychological first-aid. Among those supported, 11 per cent were children below 18 years. Moreover, 1,478 people (712 males and 766 females) were reached through awareness-raising interventions to parents and adolescents in communities by community psychosocial workers (CPSWs) in Province 2 and 5. Group orientation sessions on stress management and psychological first-aid were provided virtually and through face-to-face interactions to a total of 1,792 persons (834 males, 857 females and 101 other gender).

- A total of 259 children (189 boys, 70 girls) were provided with support for care arrangements (family reintegration support, placement in interim/transit care centers). So far, UNICEF has contributed 17 per cent to achieve the cluster target.

- In total, 574 vulnerable people (247 females, 327 males which includes 67 girls, 101 boys, 17 persons with disabilities and 10 elderly persons) were supported with transportation services to reach their respective municipalities from holding centers, points of entry, isolation facilities and quarantine centers.

Data Collection and Social Science Research

- Amid the pandemic in Nepal, the Child & Family Tracker (CFT) is ongoing, gathering robust data for assessing the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Covering the sample size of 7,500 households with children, the survey yielded results illustrating the reality that 55% of households reported earnings and livelihood losses due to lockdown. Households living in Province 2, belonging to the 2nd quantile and those living in sub-metropolitan cities reported the highest rates of earning and livelihood losses.

- Measures in response to COVID-19 and emergencies significantly affect children, particularly those living in economically disadvantaged and vulnerable households. Out of 95% of households where children are reportedly not going to schools, 52% stopped studying and only 29% have access to distance learning. Half of 29% of households with children who have access to distance learning take advantage of it and most of them live in financially stable families.

Monsoon Floods

Heavy monsoon rainfall has caused flooding and landslides across different parts of the country since 9 July. More than 100 people have died, 48 are missing (feared dead), and 87 injured across 30 affected districts. UNICEF started responding and reached out to an estimated 2,206 people/486 households with WASH and other supplies (blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, buckets, mugs and water purification tabs). UNICEF has a prepositioning stock for up to 10,000 households across the country to respond quickly to affected populations

Pakistan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MoHSRC) to convene the RCCE task force meetings and leads the UN communication group on RCCE. So far, 21 RCCE task force meetings, 12 UN RCCE group meetings and 3 federal and provincial coordination meetings have taken place. At the provincial level, weekly RCCE taskforce meetings take place. The surveillance team and the RCCE team had a meeting to discuss how best to utilize the surveillance data to inform the RCCE interventions and it was agreed that the surveillance data will be a standing agenda item in every RCCE taskforce meeting. A total 390 million viewers/listeners and social media contacts
have been reached through TV, radio, whatsapp and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) through Government and UNICEF efforts.

- Through existing polio alliances and health programme, 150,278 (31,568 new) religious leaders have been engaged and mobilized to promote the risk perception of the Corona virus, emphasize the importance of hand washing, mask use and physical distancing as well as convincing other religious leaders on risk perception. The religious leaders use the information provided to talk to their followers during the Friday sermons and to make announcements in mosques with key preventive messages on COVID-19, during this period a total of 70,658 mosque announcements were made.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies**

- Under the coordination of MOCC, sector partners, including UNICEF, have provided WASH services to 774 HCFs (163 new) reaching to more than 2.6 million people with WASH services and installed 1,328 handwashing stations (296 new). Over 13.4 million people (2.1 million new) have been supported with hygiene promotion services including COVID-19 prevention and control information. The mobile application allowing for two-way communication with the Clean and Green Pakistan champions has been approved and the platform is used to engage with the youth (18 years and above) by registering 119,000 with 50,000 acknowledging the messages on COVID-19 related social and behaviour change communication around hand hygiene. A total of 50 schools have been so far provided with IPC-WASH facilities in preparation for safe schools opening.

- Guided by research conducted by the government, UN agencies and developmental partners, UNICEF developed targeted hygiene and COVID-19 prevention messages. UNICEF is working through implementing partners to disseminate the messages through social mobilisers, religious leaders, FM radio and Community Resource Persons (CRPs). IEC material is displayed on communal hand washing stations and Clean and Green Pakistan digital and social media platforms reaching more than 6.4 million people (200,000 new) across the four provinces.

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children**

- During the reporting period, the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was available in 2,820 UNICEF supported health facilities providing SAM treatment, no change when compared to the previous report. A total of 42,644 SAM children have been admitted for treatment with 5,370 children (2,770 girls and 2,600 boys) admitted for treatment during the reporting period (Balochistan 406; Sindh 2,191; KP 1,163 and Punjab 1,610). Countrywide, the quality of treatment is in line with international standards with a recovery rate higher than 80 per cent, death rate estimated at 1 per cent and defaulter rate ranging from 2 per cent to 6 per cent in all the provinces except in Punjab where defaulter rate is as high as 20 per cent. The observed high defaulter rate in Punjab could be partly explained by the fact that smart lockdowns are still imposed on many localities resulting in a reluctance of visiting health facilities.

- UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure continuation of essential primary health care services including immunization, Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post-Natal Care (PNC), delivery services, childcare and curative care for adults in 136 targeted health facilities reaching a total of 1.2 million people of which 121,561 people were reached during the reporting period (Balochistan: 3,265; Sindh: 78,415; KP: 3,496; Punjab: 36,385). Measles immunisation reached a total of 30,920 children (under 1 year) and a total of 5,718 children (under 1 year) (Balochistan: 96; Punjab: 5,004; KP: 323, Sindh; 295) during the reporting period in the 136 UNICEF supported health facilities. Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA) has finalized COVID-19 Paediatric Case Management Guidelines with the support of UNICEF which is ready to be rolled out along with trainings. UNICEF has provided basic PPEs (gloves, sanitisers and masks) to a total of 50,363 frontline health workers with 6,889 reached during the reporting period (Balochistan: 6,405; KP: 484).

**Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services**

- The ministry of education has announced that all education institutions in Pakistan will reopen from 15th September. At Provincial level UNICEF is supporting all Education departments in developing provincial SOPs and guidelines for safe school reopening which after finalization will be translated into Urdu and other local languages for dissemination at school level. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in the development of the National Learning Continuity Framework. The framework will address distance learning and include different back to school scenarios through blended learning approaches.

- A total of 2,673 social workforce professionals (1,396 women and 1,277 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 636 trained within the reporting period (354 female and 282 males in Balochistan, KP and GB),

- A total of 38,532 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (2,105 girls, 2,283 boys, 17,231 women, 16,913 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan and GB with 4,912 reached within the reporting period (Punjab: 947, KP: 53, Sindh: 1,275, Balochistan: 2,292 and GB: 345). This includes 602 Individuals (19 Girl, 27 Boys, 327 women and 229 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in Sindh, KP, Punjab and Balochistan.

**Sri Lanka Country Office;**

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Since the closure of all schools in March 2020 as a COVID-19 preventive measure, the government decided to reopen schools in a phased manner from 6 July 2020, enabling 4.2 million students and 241,000 teachers to resume their day-to-day lives. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education’s (MoE) Back to School media campaign which is scheduled to launch in line with the planned phased reopening of schools. The campaign targets students,
parents and caregivers across the country with six key messages on COVID-19 prevention behaviours and associated stigmatization and discrimination. Different media, including, radio and TV adverts via national media in multiple languages, digital versions, in-class posters, leaflets, and mini-bus stickers, will be used to maximize the reach

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and WASH supplies**

- UNICEF, together with the Urban Settlement Development Authority (USDA), launched a public awareness creation programme on 'COVID-19 Prevention and Control' targeting the low-income urban population living condominiums. During the two-day awareness creation programme conducted by UNICEF’s WASH Specialist, one member from each of the 676 housing units in one condominium participated. The sessions included an informative presentation on prevention and control measures, and demonstrations on proper hand washing techniques and the use of facemasks. In addition, a pack of face masks were distributed to each participant, covering all the 676 families living in the condominium (approximately 2,704 people) with an illustrated leaflet regarding reusable masks. During this joint venture, a disinfecting machine, surface sanitizers, and hand sanitizer bottles and holders were handed over to the Condominium’s Management Cooperation. [http://usda.gov.lk/?p=16838](http://usda.gov.lk/?p=16838)

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women and children.**

- UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Health (MoH), conducted a detailed analysis of information from the rapid assessment of Water and Sanitation facilities in the field MCH clinics to understand the gaps in basic hand washing facilities at the entrance to the clinics. This is an essential facility in the present context, where all clients should wash their hands prior to entering the clinic building. Findings from the survey and discussions with the MoH identified five priority districts in the country to be supported in this area, namely Trincomalee, Badulla, Monaragala, Kurunegala and Puttalam. In the identified districts the percentage of non-availability of hand washing facilities at the entrance to the clinics are: Trincomalee – 60%, Badulla – 54%, Monaragala – 66%, Puttalam – 65% and Kurunegala – 52%. In response, UNICEF will establish hand washing facilities at the entrance of the MCH clinics in these districts.

**Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services**

- The ongoing nation-wide school closure from mid-March 2020 has affected around 4.2 million students, among which primary school children; Grades 1 and 2 have been offered the lowest level of support for their continuous learning. UNICEF has been supporting the government to ensure continuity of learning for Grade 1 and 2 students nation-wide through the provision and monitoring of the use of study packs in local languages (Sinhala and Tamil) which come with simple guides for parents. Approximately 665,000 children (50% girls) and their parents, including the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach who required printed materials due to limited access to digital and online platforms, have been reached. This has contributed to an increase in access to home-based learning from 62% to 82% nationally between April and May 2020 (UNICEF real-time monitoring).

- In partnership with a private service provider, UNICEF has been working with the zonal and provincial government in the Northern Province to support capacity building of teachers on online/digital teaching techniques. The training has been undertaken through online platforms to enable teachers to participate from various locations while the government restrictions on physical meetings/gathering are still in effect. The target audience to be reached in the province through the content and training is 15,000 teachers, 250,000 students from Grades 1-13 and approximately 500 education officials. This initiative will create a good model and case study to promote a blended approach to teaching-learning, which will inform the scale up to the entire Northern Province, as well as at the national level.

- To ensure the continuation of vital child protection services, UNICEF, in partnership with the Department Probation Childcare Services (DPCCS) developed and rolled out Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines on digital case management island wide. This helped to establish virtual case conferencing between child protection service providers and children benefiting 456 children through digital case management. Further, 61 children were provided with alternative care support and are now reintegrated with their families. UNICEF is also closely working with the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to build their long-term capacity to provide virtual psychosocial support to children. This long-term capacity building approach will ensure continued psychosocial support services for children during any pandemic and potential movement restrictions. As part of this initiatives, mental health and psychosocial guidelines were developed and 268 NCPA Officers (25 district Psychosocial Officers and 243 Divisional Child Protection Officers) were trained on providing remote psychosocial first aid, psychosocial support and referrals. In addition, around 231 children living in 17 children’s homes were reached during the last two weeks, benefitting from psychosocial assessments and relevant support. The 65 childcare institution staff were trained on self-care and Psychosocial First Aid. Divisional Mental Health Forums were activated in the Eastern, Northern and Uva provinces with the involvement of all divisional stakeholders and have initiated outreach to children in their divisions. Around 5,116 children have received psychosocial support.

**Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers**

- Lack of reliable and adequate data for policy decision-making was one major challenge Government and non-Government decision-makers faced during the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in Sri Lanka. Therefore, UNICEF offered technical assistance to relevant government Ministries and Departments to design and implement sectoral need
assessments during the past 5 months. Results from the telephone surveys revealed that the percentage of households negatively affected increased from 71% in the 1st round to 77% during the 2nd round of interviews. In addition, the households where income reduced increased from 32% to 54%, while the households where income stopped decreased from 39% to 23% during the 2nd round. The 3rd round of the telephone survey is now completed, and data is currently being analysed.

### Funding Status

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**Next SitRep: 26th August 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 Bhutan: [HIS-Parenting booklets support early learning from home](https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/his-parenting-booklets-support-early-learning-from-home)


Who to contact for further information:

**Jean Gough**
Regional Director
Regional Office for South Asia
Tel: +977 98510 20913
Email: jgough@unicef.org

**Paul Rutter**
Regional Adviser Health
Regional Office for South Asia
Tel: +9779801096877
Email: prutter@unicef.org

**Carmen van Heese**
Regional Adviser Emergency
Regional Office for South Asia
Tel: +9779801030064
Email: cvanheese@unicef.org