South Asia region recorded a total of 61,342 new cases during the reporting week with the cumulative total crossing the 200,000 mark and 5,040 deaths.

The first five cases were reported in the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh where 850,000 refugees live in overcrowded and squatter conditions raising concerns that without timely action the epidemic could quickly explode and worsen the ongoing crisis.

An estimated 23 million children have been affected by Super Cyclone Amphan which caused deaths and significant destruction to livelihoods, homes and basic infrastructure in some parts of Bangladesh and India compounding the already vulnerable situation as authorities struggle to contain the surging cases of COVID-19.

UNICEF is advocating and strengthening capacity for continued provision of essential health and nutrition services. UNICEF monitoring results in Bangladesh show that due to COVID-19 there is significant decrease in terms of access to immunization (58%) and antenatal care (ANC) attendance (72%) during the month of April compared to January 2020. So far 5 million children and women have benefitted from essential healthcare/nutrition services.

An estimated 70 million people (77% of the target) have been engaged through risk communication and community engagement using various platforms and networks across the region.

UNICEF and partners have reached 8 million people (37% of the target) with critical WASH services and supplies as part of infection prevention control.

A total of 51 million children and adolescent boys and girls (55% of the target) have been reached with home-based or online learning.

UNICEF is appealing for $243.5 million to reach 500 million children and their caretakers with risk communication, critical supplies, adequate health care, education, child protection and social protection.
Funding Overview and Partnerships
As part of a Global COVID-19 Appeal, UNICEF South Asia has revised its appeal to US$ 243.5 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. This appeal increased substantially in line with the escalating need due to the spread of COVID in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received $66.8 million from the CERF, 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, KFW, Japanese Government, London Stock Exchange, World Bank, UN Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered Bank, SIDA, Uniliever and USAID. In this COVID response, partnership with IFIs has substantially increased, with the all country offices in the region benefitting from the generous contribution of the banks to support government responses. In view of the worsening situation, the requests for support have sharply increased and 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 which threaten to reverse development gains.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
Over the past week the number of confirmed cases in the region has significantly spiked by more 61,342 new cases to reach 200,316 confirmed cases including 5040 deaths across the region. This represents a 44% increase compared to last week with Nepal reporting the highest percentage increase (162%). India reported 34,356 new cases, Pakistan added 12,303 new cases, Bangladesh 10,689 new cases, Afghanistan 3,450 new cases, Maldives 231 new cases and Sri Lanka 113 new cases as shown in the Figure 1 below. The first five cases were reported in the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh by 17 May where over a million refugees and host communities live in densely populated and overcrowded conditions. With measures such as physical distancing being virtually impossible to implement there are increasing concerns that without timely action the epidemic could quickly explode and create devastating impact on the refugees and host communities.

With the onset of the monsoon and cyclone season, millions of people across the region are at risk from flash flooding, storm surges, strong gusty winds and heavy rains which will likely exacerbate the ongoing humanitarian situation. An estimated 23 million children have been affected by Cyclone Amphan which caused deaths and significant destruction to livelihoods, homes and basic infrastructure in Odisha and West Bengal in India and some parts of Bangladesh compounding the already vulnerable situation as authorities struggle to contain the surging cases of COVID-19. UNICEF has prepositioned emergency lifesaving supplies to meet the needs of up to 1.5 million people in the most affected areas of the country and is prepared to activate contingency agreements with partners to provide emergency WASH, nutrition, health, child protection and education services

UNICEF is concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 on continuous provision of essential health and nutrition services. UNICEF monitoring results in Bangladesh show that due to COVID-19 there is significant decrease in terms of access to immunization (58%), antenatal care (ANC) attendance (72%) and 90% reduction in SAM admission during the month of April compared to January 2020. Similarly, UNICEF Afghanistan has reported a 25-50% decline in attendance to health services including a 40% decrease in the admission of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in inpatient services during the month of March 2020 compared to March 2019.

Figure 1; South Asia Confirmed cases from March 01 - May 20, 2020

Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitrep1 and SAARC Disaster Management Centre2

---

1 https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/
2 http://www.covid19-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), 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) 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.

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 polio and previous epidemics, including in this region (SARS, H1N1 etc).

Afghanistan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Using different platforms and networks including TV, radio, print and social media, UNICEF has reached close to 8 million people (89% of the target) with risk communication messages. Using the existing networks for polio programme, over 1.4 million people have been reached in Polio high risk areas in especially eastern and southern regions.
- Recently, UNICEF and partners launched the ‘U-Report Afghanistan’ to galvanize youth engagement around COVID-19 and its impact on young people and provide a mechanism to collect information and evidence for continued advocacy. Similarly, considering the power and influence of the religious leaders in their communities, UNICEF has been engaging with more than 1,600 mullahs, religious scholars, National Ambassador Rashid Khan, Youth Ambassador Hinna Asef Wardak and social media influencer Ismail Khan to support preventive measures of COVID-19, especially during Ramadan.
- During the reporting period 30 social mobilizers (16 females, 14 male) were mobilized and oriented on COVID-19 bring the total number of people mobilized and oriented to 3,854 individuals across the country. These UNICEF extenders, community health supervisors, community health workers, youth and adolescents, child protection action network, religious leaders play a critical role in engaging with communication and disseminating preventive messages particularly in hard to reach locations.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- As part of infection prevention control, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, handwashing facilities and hygiene supplies UNICEF continues to be a high priority for UNICEF. WASH upgrading in health care facilities and returnee points from neighboring countries, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in formal and informal sites, urban slum dwellers, childcare centers and other public/religious institutions is of priority. Thus far, 336, 553 people (84% of the target) have benefitted from WASH supply and services such as hand washing facilities established or refurbished in high risk locations in Herat, Kabul and other 12 provinces including 7,700 returnees who have accessed WASH services installed at Melak border in Nimroz province and Islam Qala border in Herat during the reporting period.
- Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, UNICEF has maximized its resources from Immunization Communication network (ICN) of Polio Programmes and over 4,200 social mobilisers are engaging in sensitizing families and communities with COVID-19 messages as well as distributing soaps to households in need, to enhance frequent hand washing, a practice critical for the breakdown of the chain of transmission particularly in the Southern and Eastern Regions. So far, 1.2 million soap bars have been distributed to over 100,000 people in high polio risk locations mostly in Southern and Eastern Regions.
- UNICEF provided chlorine powder to Urban water supply network of Kandahar city providing disinfected drinking water to 34,508 people.
- UNICEF provided 1500 locally procured PPE kits to heath, waste management and other frontline workers. In addition, UNICEF is also facilitating the offshore procurement of essential medical supplies including PPEs worth over 22 million USD grant from World Bank for the Ministry of Population and Health.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management

- UNICEF continues to work closely with Ministry of Public Heath, WHO and CSOs and provides continued support to essential health services. Due to COVID-19 and lock down measure, 25-50% reduction of attendance in health facilities was observed and it has prompted high demand for UNICEF supported Mobile Health Teams/Services. A total of 136,073 women and children have benefitted from obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services and nutrition services through mobile clinics.
• Promotion of breastfeeding, and nutrient-rich foods, treatment of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) and nutrition counselling continue to be the primary focus to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on child nutrition. UNICEF did an analysis on the implication of COVID-19 on nutrition programming across the country. The analysis revealed that a 38 percent decrease in the trend of SAM admission in outpatient services and 10 percent in inpatient services during COVID-19 time in March 2020 compared to March 2019 without COVID-19.
• A total of 340 community health workers mobilized and oriented on COVID-19 (163 female) during the reporting period.
• UNICEF translated the WHO newly released guideline on breastfeeding in local languages and shared with partners through government for implementation. UNICEF is also working to update the COVID-19 guidance note with the new updates on maternal nutrition.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services
• As a co-lead of the Education in Emergency Working Group (EiEWG) UNICEF and members have developed home-based learning materials for Grades 1-3 and are working on similar materials for Grades 4-6. The home-based learning programme aims to reach 250,000 children during the school closure period. Nearly 500,000 children have been reached up to mid-May 2020 cumulatively.
• UNICEF together with partners (MOLSA Social Workers and NGOs) reached over 11,040 people in the communities, including 61,805 children (girls: 28,759) and 48,235 community members (women 22,229) with hygiene kits, and with key messages on prevention, risk mitigation and response to COVID-19 and Child Protection.
• 31,158 including 27,865 children (girls 12009) and 3293 parents (mothers- 735, fathers-2558) received Psycho-social first aid and positive parenting messages to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience and normalcy and to address negative coping mechanisms during COVID-19.
• 1615 children (girls: 947, boys: 668) without parental care including unaccompanied and separated children (UAMS) from Iran/Pakistan who are most at risk of COVID-19 and facing discrimination and stigmatization in accessing services, reached and supported with identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) through trained Social Workers.

Bangladesh Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
• With the first positive cases identified in the camps, UNICEF has intensified messaging on COVID-19 through 800 Rohingya volunteers and 200 religious leaders. This is a critical phase as community engagement efforts shift to focus on isolation, referral and treatment. Panic management is essential in the camps, as the arrival of COVID-19 overlaps with the start of the monsoon season. This week, 29,902 people (14,351 females) were engaged through interpersonal communication; 439 boys and 458 girls through radio clubs; 150 girls and 534 women through religious study sessions; and 1,082 (190 females) through community consultations. A community perception study is underway to understand how communities are coping with emergencies.
• Across the country UNICEF intervention on mosque-based engagement has reached 48 million mostly men and boys through Jummah (Friday) prayers. Trained Imams from 238,000 mosques have initiated dialogues through Khutbah Sermons on COVID-19 including staying at home, preventive hygiene practices and maintaining social distancing while praying at the mosque.
• Over the past week, 24.8 million unique users were reached, with 4.3 million engaged in two-way communication. Posts with a reach of 5 to 7 million people include (i) guidelines for safe reopening of mosques, (ii) advice for pregnant mothers, and (iii) advice for parents on finding the time for meaningful interaction with their children. Similarly, UNICEF Campaign - #UNICEFsuperstar campaign featured content produced by children: 20-year-old Shakhiyat’s adorable snap reached 8.3 million while Nusaiba artwork thanking health workers reached 4.6 million people. So far 50.4 million people (58% of the target) have been reached using different platforms with COVID-19 messages. While the overall awareness levels on COVID-19 were very high at 98%, the awareness level among respondents with no education was significantly lower (76.7%); less than 42% were aware of how the disease is transmitted, 50% were aware of the symptoms and 57% were aware of measures to prevent the disease.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies
• Another shipment of 52,800 coveralls has reached Dhaka Airport. This was the third in a series of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shipments scheduled until mid-June 2020. With the increasing numbers of frontline workers including doctors and nurses contracting the virus, this shipment is very critical and will contribute towards UNICEF’s target of protecting 70,000 health staff and community health workers with PPE.
• This week 221 health service providers (128 female) from the seven UNICEF target districts received online IPC training. To date, 1,341 of 2,000 targeted health service providers have been trained. National IPC training for COVID-19 management was provided for 50 doctors out of 2,000 staff newly recruited for the newly established field hospital at Bashundhara International Convention Centre.
• This week, 398,000 people (231,039 women) were reached with UNICEF-supported interventions including the repair of 3,591 handpumps, chlorination of 146 piped water systems, distribution of 65,279 bars of soap, and construction of 395 handwashing devices in public places by the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and UNICEF. An uninterrupted water supply has been maintained for 2.94 million people including 200,000 Rohingya refugees (out of a target of 10 million), though this is being challenged by increased prices and decreased availability of supplies such as spare parts and bleaching powder.

• As part of Monsoon and Cyclone Disaster Preparedness UNICEF and DPHE conducted a special meeting with 64 District Executive Engineers on disaster preparedness considering COVID-19, and agreed to ensure field-level Mobile Water Treatment plants are functional, and spare parts and supplies are pre-positioned and emergency response teams ready to respond immediately if any cyclone or flash flood occurs.

• UNICEF staff visited all UNICEF-supported health facilities to monitor preparedness and provide on-the-job IPC orientation for 10 doctors (4 female), 10 medical assistants (1 female), 16 midwives (all females), 104 community health workers (90 females) and 59 other staff. An online IPC training was arranged by the Civil Surgeon’s Office and UNICEF for 10 health workers (1 female) from the Ramu (3) and Chakriya (7) Upazilla Health Complexes. To date, 82 government health workers have participated in the training.

• Hygiene Promotion reached 67,996 community members, including 3,940 children and 4,459 mothers and caregivers during the reporting week. Monitoring reveals an increase in frequent handwashing with soap amongst Rohingya refugees from 55 to 78 per cent since February in camps 8E and 8W. UNICEF partners installed 20 new handwashing stations in the camps last week, for a total of 4,651 facilities functional in communal areas, such as markets, shops, and latrines.

• Community Feedback: 589 refugees shared concerns related to handwashing with soap to protect against COVID-19. The needs for water and soap for handwashing have increased significantly which is a challenge in those camps where water is scarce. Where possible, UNICEF has increased water from 20 to 25 litres per person per day.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

• The National Immunization Programme, with technical support from UNICEF, has revised and circulated the guideline on routine immunization during COVID-19 according to the current geographic hotspots of cases and lockdown situation in the country. The direction is to continue immunization as per original plans, except in sub-blocks where there are confirmed COVID-19 cases.

• UNICEF continues to advocate for continuous provision of essential health and nutrition services. UNICEF released a press statement on increased child mortality due to disruption of routine services emphasizing the need for additional investments in the Health Sector.

• A reduction in immunization activities has been noted (DHIS2). In April 2020, there was a 49% reduction of routine immunization) uptake compared to March 2020 and 55 per cent less than February 2020. At the same time, there was 24 per cent reduction in the number of immunization sessions held from March 2020 and 26 per cent fewer than February 2020, indicating that health workers were also not able to hold sessions.

• The proportion of children screened for malnutrition in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness nutrition corners has declined from 35 per cent in March to 31 per cent in April. Admissions for SAM treatment is declining steeply: only 50 children with SAM were admitted in April, compared to 279 children in March. Zonal Nutrition officers, Nutrition Information Planning Units and District Nutrition Officers will follow up with the facilities not carrying out screening and discuss the declining SAM admissions. To address supply shortages, F-75 and F-100 therapeutic foods and nutrition kits have been dispatched; 135 out of 394 SAM inpatient units already received their stock this week and rest of the facilities will receive the supplies by the end of the month.

• A total of 190 children with SAM (133 girls) were admitted for treatment in camps and 5 (1 female) in host communities this week. This is an increase from 128 admissions compared to the week before due to the increased case detection by 320 Rohingya volunteers (47 female) and self-referrals by trained mothers (7,419) and adolescents (106). So far 928 children have been admitted for SAM treatment since the response began.

• 105 staff (58 females) and 154 volunteers (65 females) were trained on modified nutrition guidance for COVID-19; to date, 140 out of 583 staff have been trained on the new guidance. Additionally, 12 staff (7 females) and 49 volunteers (13 females) received COVID-19 prevention training, for a total of 523 staff and 782 volunteers to date.

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

• To mitigate the learning loss of an estimated 35,000 trainee teachers and to ensure they successfully complete their Diploma in Primary Education (DPEd), UNICEF is supporting the National Academy of Primary Education (NAPE) on remote learning options. So far UNICEF and partners has reached 14.3 million children, and adolescent boys and girls (60% of the target) with homebased/online learning. In a survey of 11,013 Rohingya refugees (29 per cent female) from 32 camps, 77 per cent of respondents said their children are engaged in
home-based learning. Eighty per cent of the respondents said children are studying by themselves and 73 per cent are supported by the siblings.

- This week the National Curriculum and Textbook Development Board met virtually to review the ECD curriculum, drafted with the support of UNICEF. Finalization of the curriculum is one of the critical activities for two-year preschool education, aiming to support quality learning of 3.5 million pre-school children in the country.
- Child protection services provided last week include psychosocial support for 14,152 beneficiaries (6,699 females); positive parenting messages for 6,086 parents and caregivers (2,440 females); case management services for 941 children and survivors (446 female); and engagement activities for 3,707 adolescents (1,645 girls). To date, 135,000 children and adolescent girls and boys (25% of the target) have received psychosocial support from UNICEF supported interventions.
- The UNICEF supported Child Help Line received 9,910 calls (60 per cent male) between 30 April and 13 May, with 459 children rescued due to extreme violence, separation, homelessness, child marriage and exploitation. More staff members are required to manage the calls and response from Child Help Line due to increasing demand. In addition, alternative care arrangements and follow-up visits were made for 17 children (9 females) this week who require family-based placements to reduce their vulnerabilities during this time.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF conducted its first Facebook live session on ending violence against children and positive parenting tips with over 14,000 viewers participating in the session.

Bhutan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- UNICEF supported development and implementation of the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement action plan and dissemination of COVID-19 prevention and containment IEC materials. An estimated 300,000 people have been reached face-to-face by a network of 12,000 community volunteers and influential leaders, and through TV/radio on COVID-19 preventive and containment messages. Since the beginning of the response more than 500,000 people have been reached multiple times. However, a recent Pulse survey targeting remote communities indicated that while almost all interviewees had heard of COVID-19, the degree of understanding on symptoms and prevention and containment was relatively low, indicating the need for stronger RCCE in the communities. The government is currently reviewing the findings and will be acting upon the recommendations, possibly carrying out a second survey focused on knowledge and practices.
- UNICEF Bhutan is sharing #COVID19STORIES received through COVID19 Diaries campaign https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/covid-19-diaries. Since the launch of the campaign more than 120 testimonials have been received from adolescents and young people across the country including from those who are in quarantine.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies
- UNICEF continues to support Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) through interventions aimed at strengthening hygiene and sanitation. A total of 21,650 people (44% of the target) in 4 municipalities and 6 districts have access to handwashing and Safe Drinking Water facilities through installation of 25 handwashing stations (77 tap points) in common public places through tripartite partnership of MoH, SNV and UNICEF in four municipalities.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services
- Advocacy efforts are ongoing with national authorities to ensure psychosocial support to children and vulnerable people both remotely and face to face, currently and once schools & youth centres reopen.
- Technical guidance provided to strengthen early identification and safe referrals of vulnerable children and families to existing services, including referral to the national cash transfer programme (“Kidu”).
- In terms of access to service, 157 children (68 boys and 89 girls) and 56 (27 male and 29 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.
- Technical guidance provided to the National Commission for Women and Children to update the mapping of services for survivors of gender-based violence in close coordination with CSOs and other sectors such as health and justice.

India Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- UNICEF State Offices continue to support the anti-stigma and discrimination campaign. 28 NGOs were trained on stigma and discrimination, myths and misconceptions in Jharkhand, and 767 Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan functionaries and teams from Clean India Mission, 5,360 National Service scheme volunteers and 20 religious leaders trained in Bihar.
• 1,193,479 health functionaries, which constitutes 96% of ANM (auxiliary nurse midwives) and ASHA workers have been trained and are engaged in the Social mobilization and engagement of government officials, self-help groups, Religious leaders, reaching 41 million people with COVID messages in 14 states.

• UNICEF's technical support at central level and in states resulted in development/dissemination of key WASH COVID specific and sensitive message packages at scale, including through innovative digital dissemination. Extensive capacity building and mobilization of Swachhagrahis, PRIs, SHGs, FLWs and CSO volunteers contributed to promote hygiene and safety practices reaching urban, rural and remote tribal population.

• Using different platforms including digital and social media, UNICEF and partners reached 81 million during the reporting period and 744 million people since 3 March 2020 representing 74% of the target. Content about COVID-19 appeared on social media feeds 14 million times on average every day during this seven-day period and was seen by 10.8 million on average per day. Around 655,319 teachers and 21 million parents and School Management Committee members have been reached with risk reduction communication messages including messages related psychosocial support, responsive parenting messages, and messages related to personal safety of online digital content.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

• UNICEF offices in different States (including Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Odisha) have continued to provide WASH services and supplies such as soaps, masks, and hygiene kits in partnership with government, NGO and CSRs reaching over 931,000 people cumulatively (93% of the target).

• An estimated 150,713 people including government and representatives from communities and civil society organizations were trained by UNICEF state offices on continuity of WASH services, WASH aspects of COVID-19 prevention through various online medium including through COVID-19 Academy.

• UNICEF supported state government in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand) to install handwashing stations and water points in rural communities and shelter camps. UNICEF Jharkhand supported government in ensuring an uninterrupted supply of water to households and quarantine facilities, rural communities and shelter camps.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

• Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual campaigns of ‘Intensified diarrhoea control fortnight’ and ‘defeat diarrhoea’ have been cancelled. UNICEF continue to advocate with the Diarrhoea – Pneumonia Secretariat to reschedule the activities later in the year.

• With UNICEF support Governments continued to issue specific guidance - Management of children with SAM who develop COVID (in Karnataka), resumption of nutrition services – IFA and Vitamin A Supplementation (in West Bengal), undertake state-wide remote orientation and review of Nutrition Programs (in Jharkhand).

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

• UNICEF is supporting 14 state governments in roll out of response plans for continuation of learning and around 44,185 education officials were orientated in this regard. UNICEF supported State Education Departments in the preparation of training modules for teachers and in SoPs for disinfection of schools before reopening.

• Continued technical support is being provided to state government and partners in continuity of students learning through TV, Radio and other digital mediums reaching to around 36.6 million children (62% of the target). MEENA story series of UNICEF is being broadcasted on NCERTs Swayam Prabha DTH channel at the national level and in state DD TV channels.

• UNICEF partners supported Railways and District administration to provide care and protection to 1285 migrants, including 113 children that arrived from Punjab to Gonda district in Uttar Pradesh. With the support of UNICEF partners, 12,044 migrant labourers have been identified eligible for social protection of labour department in the last week.

• UNICEF continues to support authorities to follow up the over 70,000 children from Childcare Institutions (CCIs) that have been sent home. In Rajasthan, a protocol for outreach and for identification of children that should return to CCIs once lockdown is over has been put in place. In UP and Gujarat, 131 and 87 children in family-based systems or in process of being reunified have been linked up to social protection systems. In Madhya Pradesh, 125 children have been prevented from getting into labour, and families supported with applications for benefiting social protection schemes like Public Distribution System, and relief supplies.

• UNICEF and the National Police Academy (NPA) launched a joint partnership programme for enhancing child sensitivity in policing, organizing a webinar with 180 police officers, where UNICEF supported guidelines for the Police were disseminated.

• UNICEF, in partnership with Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Government of Odisha and NIMHANS organized online webinar from approximately 5,036 participants (approximated 45% women) from District Child Protection Units (DCPU), Childcare Institutions (CCI) functionaries and CHILDLINE
providing psychosocial support to children. In Assam, UNICEF supported two Tea Associations and District Administration to reach 716 adolescent girls and boys and sensitized Child Protection Committees from all 205 tea gardens.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- As a result of the second round of Rapid Assessment on relief or shelter camps, UP Government has issued an order to ensure delivery of free ration kits, increased home visits by health care workers and initiated reconciliation of the account numbers of beneficiaries by the Departments of Labour and Social Welfare. The Department of Rural Development has agreed to disseminate the entitlements of workers and follow up of cash withdrawal through the network of Rozgar Sevaks (labourers/wage earners).
- In Chhattisgarh, the rapid assessment on cash transfers coverage identified that accessing cash through bank accounts is a problem even when the funds have been transferred. Policy recommendation is made to send bank operators to the villages for disbursement of cash.
- UNICEF office in Mumbai launched a collaborative platform named, “Jeevan Rath” comprising of 40 partners and 200 volunteers with an aim to reach out 75,000 migrants with WASH, Food and NFIs support. At present 6 mobile food trucks are in operation in Pune and Mumbai. Crowd funding account for Jeevan Rath started with Ketto Platform.

Data collection social science research for public health decision making (2 bullet points)

- A training of trainers has been conducted for the planned Socio-Economic Impact Assessment study; the data collection tool will have around 50 questions, covering areas of general health, maternal care, child health and immunization, nutrition, WASH & Hygiene, social protection, livelihood, employment, food security, learning including ECE and ECD. Around 1,200 respondents in 500 families is being sampled per district, in the identified states.

Maldives Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Since health local experts’ findings indicated an expected surge of cases of COVID19 between 25 – 30 May, the RCCE working group worked on a surge communication plan under the RCCE to focus on engaging with the public to strengthen precautionary measures taken at home to contain the expected, greater spread. The multi-lingual messaging disseminated since 15 May, focus on practical tips to prepare for home isolation, continued emphasis on physical distancing and how to seek medical assistance if any symptoms were found.
- During the reporting period, joint RCCE multi-lingual messaging refocused on preventative steps to be taken, including recommended personal hygiene measures and disinfection procedures for homes/vehicles. During the current reporting period, UNICEF CO reached 281,529 people on its social media channels. The cumulative reach through UNICEF messaging as well as those disseminated through its partners’ social media channels (multiple platforms) has reached over 400,000 people with some people being reached multiple times. Based on most recent government reports, people’s compliance to required practices such as staying at home, physical distancing and practicing good hygiene practices has improved in the past few weeks, to about 75 percent.
- Based on the messaging to influence information-seeking behaviours in key audiences, both UNICEF and HPA websites receive daily visits from the public to acquire details about preventative practices, as well as guidance to parents/families during the pandemic. UNICEF website provides Dhivehi language articles based on UNICEF global content, allowing reliable and up-to-date information needed by families. During the reporting period 134,245 people were engaged. Additionally, as an RCCE partner, the Maldives Red Crescent has conducted face-to-face information sessions for the public, especially the migrant community in Greater Male’ city.
- Through both the emergency hotline 1676 and email address, the public has been able to share their concerns as well as seek clarifications regarding emergency treatment and information on services. During the reporting period, 7,021 people were able to seek assistance from the government.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- UNICEF has procured a total of 5,000 COVID-19 test kits for the government. This will significantly increase the government’s testing capacity in a rapidly increasing outbreak.
- In order to assist in the prevention control efforts, UNICEF increased the commitment initially earmarked for PPE supplies, and secured significant amounts of key PPE equipment including thermometers (40 units), protective goggles (100 units) N95 masks (11,971), Surgical masks(20,950 units), fog resistant face shields (47,040 units ) and body bags (280 units). Once delivered, this will be substantial contribution to protect front line workers active in COVID response, especially the health professionals and rapid response teams.
Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- A total of 73 teachers completed the training on G-Suite giving them the skills to get certified as a google trained teacher. A total of 10 teachers received certification in G-Suite, enabling them to reach a total of 140 students with online classes. Some of the challenges to scaling up the training includes, lack of computers/laptops for teachers to do the online training, unresponsiveness of some school managements to the instructions of MoE and low level of digital literacy among the top management of schools.
- Following the advocacy and guidance from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education issued instructions to school to resume of online learning and televised classes. A policy directive on the production of televised classes were also sent out to schools last week. However, learning has not yet been resumed as anticipated and further discussions with the MoE are planned for this week.

Nepal Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Over the past week, UNICEF reached 29.7 million people (149% of its target) with more than 30 messages related to COVID-19 on UNICEF Nepal’s social media platforms. The top-performing posts include a video message of an adolescent girl who recovered from COVID-19 and the personal story of a UNICEF driver based in Bhairawa field office. The video of the person who recovered reached 4.3 million people and received 2.3 million views. Videos, such as these, help reduce growing levels of stigmatization and discrimination based on the comments received.
- UNICEF Nepal and partners completed the second round of citizen plus survey with the 2,289 (52% female and 48% male) respondents. Major findings include television (62%) radio (57%) and social media (36%) are the top three sources of information on COVID-19; Similarly, more than half of the respondents reported problems buying daily food items and economic hardships. Around 17% percent have already lost their job and one percent mentioned gender-based violence. In addition, 79% of the respondents are worried about their children schools or missing education. Whereas 26% of the parents are ready to send their children to schools once the lock-down is over and 33% will decide looking at the situation.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and Ministry of Health and Population broadcasted five episodes of Corona Capsule and eight episodes of television programme “Corona Care” reaching more than 6 million people through radio, television, Facebook and “Hamro Patro” Apps. The recent survey showed 23% of the respondents have listened to “Corona Capsule” and 22 percent viewed “Corona Care” programme. A total of 56 community feedback and questions were addressed through the television and radio programme.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- As part of strengthening infection, prevention and control, contactless handwashing stations are newly established in 30 locations including 13 health facilities/COVID designated hospitals in Banke, Kapilvastu, and Rupandehi districts with UNICEF support. In addition, UNICEF supported 12 COVID designated hospitals, primarily in province 2 and province 5, with 10,800 surgical masks, 10,600 pairs of disposable gloves, 21 pairs of boots and 21 plastic aprons (parts of PPE). Anticipating the upcoming monsoon season, a further 100 hygiene kits and 100 mosquito nets were also provided to Lumbini provincial hospital. With this, UNICEF has provided a total 97,500-surgical masks and 45,600 surgical gloves as well as 4,065 bottle hand sanitizers. UNICEF also provided 12 drums of bleaching powder, 620 hand sanitizers, 310 of liquid soap, 37 bottles of detergents, as well as some other more minor cleaning supplies, such as dustbins and pans with a brush’s and plastics for the bins to support keeping the healthcare facilities hygienic.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- UNICEF is supporting the resumption of routine immunization and maternal and newborn services across the all provinces. A total of 16,909 children received immunization, 5,846 pregnant women received anti natal care and 4,678 institutional deliveries were conducted. Health workers are raising concerns about the lack of protective gear for their own safety as well as clients/patient’s protection.
- UNICEF supported child and adolescent mental health clinic at Kanti Children Hospital and provided clinical and psychosocial management support to 91 children (62 boys and 29 girls aged below 18 years) and 58 parents. Issues addressed via teleconsultation include therapeutic treatment with medication on psychiatric services and follow-up services to the clients.
- According to Health Monitoring Information System (HMIS), since February there have been 449 children under five years of age admitted for outpatient treatment for severe wasting.
- Whilst provision of Antenatal Care (ANC) services for pregnant women continues within the COVID-19 context, the Health Information System reflects a lower number of pregnant women utilizing ANC since the commencement of lockdown measures.
UNICEF provided technical support for a 5-day ICT training program attended by 104 teachers of Grade 9 to Grade 12 in Sudurpashchim Province as part of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. The main purpose of the training was to build the capacity of secondary school teachers on ICT, start a momentum on use of ICT in education where possible and promote effective virtual/alternative mode of learning during such situation of school closure/lock down, where possible.

A study related to internet use and online safety risks emerging from the lockdown was concluded by UNICEF and ChildSafeNet. The main findings include: (i) confirmation of increased screen time (+15% in the category of people for up to 10-12 hours/day), (ii) female respondents aged 18-24 years reported receiving high rates of hate remarks and online sexual content, (iii) increased proportion of children and young people visiting sites with sexual content. Based on findings, UNICEF is designing awareness campaigns targeting children, parents and schools, developing guidance on reporting of cyber-related abuses against children and young people and advocating with NGOs, tech companies to increase awareness on online risks and with authorities to strengthen laws on cyber security.

Psychosocial support reached a further 115 persons through existing helplines, online platforms and counselling with UNICEF support. Flex posters with psychosocial messages were installed outside 10 health facilities and in 2 quarantine centers in Dhanusa and Mahottari districts. The messages were targeted to encourage people to seek for psychosocial support through dedicated helplines.

Virtual and face to face training sessions on stress management and psychological first aid was organized for 850 persons (424 males and 426 females) from humanitarian organizations in Kathmandu and communities in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Surkhet, Banke, Kalikot and Jumla district with UNICEF support.

Over this reporting period, UNICEF reached 534,000 persons (total 1.4 million so far) through messaging on non-violent discipline disseminated through social media and 2.9 million young people and parents (total 6.1 million so far) on online safety.

Within its role as Chair of Social Protection Task Team (SPTT), UNICEF has been working in close collaboration with DFID and other members of the SPTT to design a response to support vulnerable children and families with cash transfer through Nepal’s Universal Child Grant Programme. A series of consultations with National Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance (MoF), has contributed to paving the path for a DFID supported emergency cash transfer (CT) being rolled out soon in the most affected districts.

UNICEF Nepal is working with DFID to enhance the impact of this emergency CT with a ‘cash plus approach’, focused on Communication for Development which includes modules on GBV, ECD and risk communications.

UNICEF Nepal continues to strengthen advocacy for enhancing evidence-based advocacy for a stronger social protection response through a range of analytical pieces including modelling of impact on COVID 19 with and without an appropriate social protection response.

### Pakistan Country Office;
**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

UNICEF’s Advocacy and Communication and polio social media platforms have reached 77.4 million people3 through different social media platforms, an increase of 25.6 million people during the reporting period and collectively the Government and UN Agencies have reached more than 217 million people with social media posts. The engagement of people through social media4 rests at 13.8 million with 2.13 million engaged during the reporting period.

In partnership with VIAMO5, a Mobile Solution services, robocall messages on severity of the disease, encouraging social/physical distancing and preventive behaviours such as hand washing and hygiene reached 6.8 million people in 60 locations across Pakistan categorized as hard to reach (borderland districts, tribal areas) and urban slums with an additional 2 million people reached with

The 6th RCCE brief, informed by combined analysis of the social and behavioural data, daily social media sentiment data and records from the polio helpline (1166) has been released. The key findings include: (1) Disruption and low uptake of available health services due to reduction in access, health care system overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and resource constraints; (2) Social distancing is the behaviour that is being followed the least, while the perceived threat is low not only among the youth but also among communities in general and (3) Women suffer more from stigmatization than men and here is a belief amongst people that COVID-19 is only contracted by non-religious people, and the belief that COVID-19 is not real.

Through existing polio alliances and the health programme, 86,532 religious leaders (62,314 new) have been engaged and mobilised to promote risk perception of COVID-19, emphasize social distancing, encourage praying at home and to promote key preventive messages on COVID-19.

Polio communication staff has mobilized Union presidents of local markets and the management of Mega marts to implement government Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on physical distancing. Advocacy with district...
administration for strict regulation of implementation of mosques and market SOPs also continued across the provinces through the polio communication teams.

- The Polio helpline (1166) which is being used for COVID-19 has received over 3 million calls and responded to a total of 2.2 million calls, a response rate of 72 per cent. With the increased capacity of helpline now reaching 250 helpline agents, the helpline is now able to respond to higher number of calls. UNICEF supports the 85 agents and the rest are supported by Digital Pakistan.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies**

- With funding support from World Bank, UNICEF procured 8 metric tons of the much-needed PPEs for health workers, for the Ministry of Health which include N-95 masks (42,860) and surgical gowns (37,840).
- To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities in 225 out of the 266 assessed health care facilities (Sindh: 32, KP: 25, Punjab: 167 Balochistan:1), including 5 during the reporting period. Over 200,000 people (22,000 new) have used these facilities to date, ensuring the availability of safe drinking water and safe excreta management thereby contributing towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among healthcare workers.
- UNICEF is disseminating hygiene messages through social mobilisers, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), IEC materials displayed on communal HWSs and Clean and Green Pakistan digital and social media platforms reaching out to over 4.7 million people (over 860,000 new) across the four provinces (Sindh: 598,916, KP: 405,317, Punjab: 3,481,841, Baluchistan: 216,387).
- To enhance the capacity of sanitary and frontline workers to use PPE, detergents and disinfectants properly, UNICEF supported the training of 3,242 workers (Sindh: 652, Punjab: 1,781, Balochistan: 780, KP: 29), including 206 during the reporting period.

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.**

- UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure continuation of essential primary health care services including immunization, Ante-Natal Care, Post-Natal Care, delivery services, childcare and curative care for adults in 136 targeted health facilities reaching 774,389 people (23% of the target), an increase of 36,834 in the reporting period (Baluchistan: 3,189, Sindh: 31,973, KP: 1,672). UNICEF continues to support routine immunisation and a total of 17,932 children (under 1 year) have been vaccinated against measles, an increase of 1,225 children (Balochistan: 625, KP: 82 and Sindh: 518) during the reporting period. SOPs for the continuation of routine immunization activities in the districts have been finalized and shared with the districts by Provincial EPI program for implementation. UNICEF has provided basic PPEs (gloves, sanitisers and masks) to 11,646 frontline health workers (368 new).
- UNICEF supported training of 4,924 frontline health workers (1,061 during reporting period) on IPC and also supported training of 14,275 frontline health workers and community volunteers (1,754 during reporting period) oriented on COVID-19 and identification and referral of suspected cases.
- UNICEF also addressed the need for IEC material to promote adequate IYCF in Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) by providing 1,750 posters to be used at the health facility level and 16,800 flyers for Lady Health Workers (LHW) to reach mothers and caregivers using inter-personal communication approach where social distancing is possible and PPE is available.
- A total of 18,912 children (72% of the target) with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been admitted for treatment, including 836 new cases during the reporting period (KP 429; Baluchistan 338; and Sindh 69). Service uptake continues to be a challenge due to fear of infection by the virus, reduced community-based interventions and/or restricted mobility of populations.
- Inter-personal communication through UNICEF supported Lady Health Workers (LHWs) and other community-based networks for counselling on IYCF practices in the context of COVID-19 reached 6,535 pregnant and lactating women during the reporting period (Balochistan 2,088; KP 3,473 and Sindh 974) and 94,691 in total. The lack of basic PPEs has not only affected the performance of the nutrition frontline workers but also created resistance in the uptake of the services from communities.

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

- A total of 65,189 School Management Committee/Parent Teachers Committee (SMC/PTCs) members, teachers and education personnel were directly reached with COVID-19 prevention messages via SMS and other social media platforms during the reporting period, taking the total to 1.38 million.
- Targeted messages on the importance of education, including short video messages on mathematics, science and English, have reached a total of 13,940 parents and PTSMC (Parent Teacher School Management Committee) members, including 865 during this reporting period.
- With UNICEF’s support, a total of 49,514 children are benefitting from alternative learning platforms (Punjab, Sindh ALPs and Baluchistan “My Home My School”), with 24,438 children reached during this reporting period. In Sindh, the Education department, in coordination with UNICEF, has finalized the new learning application which will be available on google app store and is awaiting approval from Google and is expected to be launched in a week. The department is also planning for digital classrooms and with support of Microsoft has organized
a master trainers training on MS Team for the Karachi region. At the Federal level, UNICEF had entered into a partnership with ILM Association (an umbrella organization for all educational technology companies) to support the Ministry of Education in developing and improving the educational content for the ongoing tele school broadcast. A scoping analysis has been conducted to analyse and examine existing and new ed-tech educational content for the primary level and the report will be available next week to inform Ministry on which areas to prioritize for the new tele school content.

- A total of 570 teachers have been trained on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools, with 64 teachers trained during this reporting period.
- A total of 1,063 social workforce professionals (501 women and 562 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 104 workforce professionals trained during the reporting period (KP: 70, Sindh: 34).
- A total of 6,433 parents (24% of the target), caregivers, children and individuals (412 girls, 366 boys, 2,925 women, 2,790 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP and Sindh provinces with 1,673 reached within the reporting period.
- Within the reporting period, messages on stigma prevention reached 252,070 people and engaged 7,877 users with a cumulative reach of 3.9 million and an engagement of 71,563 users.

Sri Lanka Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- A joint UNICEF-WHO-MoH post-curfew communication campaign assets have been posted on UNICEF social channels and released on mainstream media during the reporting period. The 6 animation films feature the following scenarios: going to work, usage of an elevator, public transport, purchasing groceries from a mobile vendor/ food truck, shopping at a supermarket/ grocery store, returning home from work. On social media the campaign has gained a unique reach of 947,968 via with a total of 94,721 engagements. The campaign was aired on 5 national TV channels including, TV Derana, Rupavahini, ITN, Dialog TV and Shakti TV, with a total of 118 spots reaching an estimated 6 million people (38% of the target).

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- With the increase in the number of cases of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health (MoH) is focusing on establishing more and more isolation facilities in all the Provinces and Districts in the country. UNICEF technically supports the MoH to identify requirements to establish isolation facilities in the Provinces and Districts along with the Provincial Directors and Regional Directors. With UNICEF’s financial and technical support, the construction of isolation facilities at Lady Ridgeway Children’s Hospital, Castle Street Hospital and Base Hospital Minuwandoga is ongoing. In collaboration with the London Stock Exchange Group, UNICEF supports the MoH to upgrade the Base Hospital in Kathakudu as a COVID 19 isolation hospital by establishing essential WASH and infection prevention control facilities.
- UNICEF and the London Stock Exchange Group provided a Neonatal Ventilator and an Adult Ventilator to the Family Health Bureau to strengthen Intensive Care Facilities in one of the hospitals providing care for COVID 19 maternal and neonatal patients.

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

- UNICEF together with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services has reached 2,017 children in childcare homes with risk communication messages to-date.
- During last week, 6 children without parental or family care were provided with appropriate alternative care support, bringing the total supported children to 38. In addition, 28 Children in certified schools has already reunified with their families in Northern province. With the support of social service work force, monitoring mechanism was established to continuously monitor the situation of children recently reunified with their families in Batticaloa district.
- A total of 512 children, parents and primary caregivers were supported with psychosocial first aid and counselling during the week bringing the total reach to 1,712 to-date.

Data and Social Research

- UNICEF together with Verité Research conducted a telephone survey of the Real-Time Tracking (RTT) of COVID-19’s social and economic impacts on the vulnerable population and reached to 2,067 households across the country.
- The preliminary results indicate a stark impact of COVID-19 and response to COVID-19 on households:
  - 39.4% of total households interviewed stated that their income has completely stopped.
  - 96% daily-wage earners interviewed mentioned that their income has either completely stopped or reduced significantly.
  - Since the imposition of curfew, 30% of households have reduced their food consumption and 87% households reduced consumption of meat/fish and eggs.
  - 65% respondents lacked access to child immunization and 63% of the respondents lacked access to pre-post-natal care.
### Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements ($)</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Humanitarian resources received ($)</td>
<td>Other Resources ($)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>43,160,000</td>
<td>27,193,900^6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>75,827,325</td>
<td>5,763,619</td>
<td>7,153,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>2,616,000</td>
<td>1,089,716</td>
<td>248,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
<td>20,554,679</td>
<td>5,160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>10,281,375</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>14,355,000</td>
<td>3,225,463</td>
<td>3,804,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>50,200,000</td>
<td>4,696,414</td>
<td>2,731,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>4,600,000</td>
<td>1,347,900</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Office</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>2,155,638</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>243,539,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,827,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,127,724</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next SitRep: 28th May 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

- **Human Interest Story from Nepal: A guide to safety**: A religious leader’s efforts to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messages with UNICEF support are helping to protect his community in far-western Nepal.
- **Photo story Nepal- Battling malnutrition amidst COVID-19**: In southern & western Nepal, UNICEF is supporting Gov in resuming provision of nutrition supplies essential to prevent & treat malnutrition in young children.
- **HIS Bangladesh- Nowhere to “stay at home”**: Children living on the streets are trapped in double jeopardy during pandemic lockdowns.
- **HIS Bangladesh- In search for education for Rohingya children**: Challenge of continuous learning in the world’s largest refugee camp during the COVID-19 pandemic.


- **Meet Soma – a midwife in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan and see what she is doing amid COVID19**: [https://www.facebook.com/unicef/videos/1383167361870248/](https://www.facebook.com/unicef/videos/1383167361870248/)


### 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

---

^6 The funds received for Afghanistan include $23 million grant from World Bank for procurement of supplies which was not included in the HAC budget.