



East Asia and Pacific Region

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1






unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 March 2021

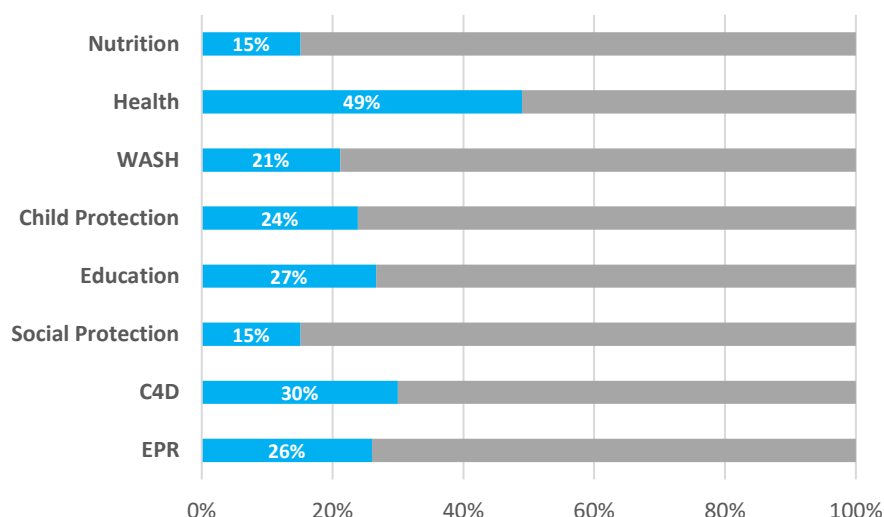
Highlights

- The number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the region have more than doubled since the beginning of 2021. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 3,523,121 positive COVID-19 cases and 75,021 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (1,492,002 cases) and the Philippines (712,417 cases) being the most affected.
- Countries across the region are now racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19, resulting in the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history. At the same time governments remain focused on containing the spread of the virus and responding to the social-economic impacts of the pandemic, which are exacerbating the vulnerability of families to natural hazards and protracted humanitarian situations.
- Many children, adolescents and caregivers continue to face psychosocial distress. The Philippines Department of Justice documented a 264% rise of online sexual abuse and exploitation materials on the internet.
- UNICEF has supported 58,783 children and caregivers in accessing mental health and psychosocial support and 4 million women, girls and boys in accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions.
- UNICEF supported 112,618 schools to implement safe school protocols and 22 million children with access formal or non-formal education, including early learning.

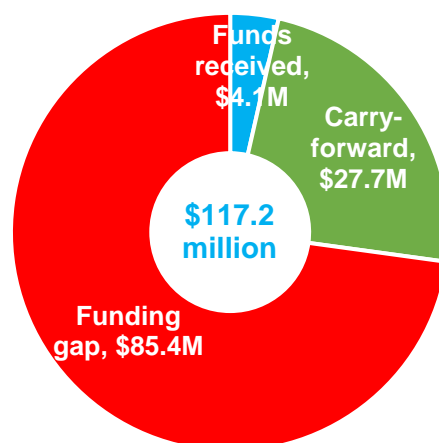
Situation in Numbers

-  **3,523,121** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **75,021** deaths
-  **500,000** additional children have SAM due to COVID-19
-  **6.9 million** children are not immunized against measles
-  **369 million** people lack access to basic hygiene services
-  **144 million** children/adolescents lack access to education

UNICEF's Funding Status



Funding Status Regional 2021 HAC (US\$)¹



¹ UNICEF has received an additional **US\$ 35.4 million for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in East Asia and Pacific** in response to the global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) appeal. Funding and results from the HAC ACT-A appeal will be reported separately.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

COVID-19 continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of children in the region and around the world. Across East Asia and Pacific (EAP), early action by governments and partners has helped limit the spread of COVID-19 compared to other regions. Nonetheless, despite these efforts, new outbreaks of community transmission in many countries continue to emerge, including the spread of COVID-19 variants. The number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the region have more than doubled since the beginning of 2021. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 3,523,121 positive COVID-19 cases and 75,021 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (1,492,002 cases) and the Philippines (712,417 cases) being the most affected. Restrictions on border crossings and flight operations remain in effect throughout the region.

Countries across the region are now racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19, resulting in the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history. As the largest single vaccine buyer in the world, UNICEF has a unique and longstanding expertise in supporting countries in their national vaccination programmes. UNICEF is leading efforts to procure and supply doses of COVID-19 vaccines for around 100 countries participating in the COVAX Facility. Across the region, UNICEF is supporting governments with planning, technical assistance and assistive devices, such as cold-chain equipment, to support their COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

At the same time governments also remain focused on containing the spread of the virus and responding to the social-economic impacts of the pandemic. There is a risk that health systems at all levels become overstretched in both capacity and resources, which may negatively impact the quality and effectiveness of COVID-19 infection, prevention and control measures, including vaccination, as well as routine essential health and nutrition services.

New outbreaks of COVID-19 in a number of countries resulted in renewed school closures during the first three months of the year. Schools temporarily closed in Thailand (in January/February) and in Viet Nam (in February), but were able to reopen again after the closures. Schools in Cambodia (in February/March), Timor-Leste (in March) and Papua New Guinea (PNG) (in March) closed again affecting more than 5 million children (Cambodia: 3.2m, Timor-Leste: 0.4m, PNG: 2.1m). Children in these countries continue to learn through distance learning modalities supported by UNICEF country offices. Schools began reopening in Malaysia (in February/March) and Mongolia (in March). In the Philippines the majority of schools have remained closed for face-to-face classes since last year, affecting 24.9m children. In Indonesia (68.3m children), a new decree on the school re-opening has been issued to encourage all schools to conduct face-to-face learning with safety and health protocols in place for the new academic calendar starting July 2021. Some countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia) have prioritized and started vaccinating teachers against COVID-19 as a measure to reopen schools. In Myanmar, the political crisis and conflict are further exacerbating the challenges faced by the education system and learners; Reports include the occupation of schools by armed forces and the detention of students. All schools remain closed for face-to-face classes in Myanmar, affecting 9.5m students.

The pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges in service provision for child welfare and protection, which include limited accessibility to basic social services, limited availability of social workers, and that service provision focuses on limited legal-focused services instead of on prevention. Risks to child protection remain and available evidence indicates that many children, adolescents and caregivers continue to face psychosocial distress. In the Philippines, quarantine measures that limit mobility of children and adults and restricting classes to blended learning modalities have increased the risk of violence against children. Economic stresses and anxiety due to the pandemic may lead to abuse and exploitation. In a January 2021 report covering March to May 2020, the Department of Justice documented a 264% rise of online sexual abuse and exploitation materials on the internet. In Indonesia, the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection revealed that cases of online violence against women has increased during the pandemic in tandem with the rise in use of the internet and information technology. She stated, *"Cases of violence are increasingly having various modes, the risk of online violence against women is increasing along with the increasing use of information technology during the pandemic. The majority of cases are in the domestic realm; deeper psychological pressures accompany survivors, especially those facing various restrictions to leave the house due to the pandemic."*

The EAP Regional Office carried out an After Action Review to reflect on UNICEF's social protection response to COVID-19 in EAP in 2020. It identified the strengths and weaknesses of UNICEF's ongoing response to COVID-19, the main enabling and limiting factors, key lessons learned and preparedness measures for future responses on social protection in emergencies. Some countries in the region designed stimulus packages with the anticipation that the COVID-19 pandemic would last only 3-4 months, with the majority of their social protection responses being one-off benefits or short-term top-ups to existing benefits (Malaysia, Viet Nam, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines). While this may not be problematic for countries that have introduced additional packages over time (Thailand, Malaysia, Mongolia), for countries that endorsed only one stimulus package in 2020, the effects of their responses remain constraint. With the increased public social spending on the 2020 stimulus packages, rising fiscal deficits and government debts as a result of the pandemic, many countries in EAP have oriented political discourse around wide-ranging fiscal consolidation as a top priority for 2021. This has implications for the discourse around fiscal space and political acceptance for the sustainability of social spending (i.e. around social protection measures) in response to the still unfolding COVID-19 crisis.

Meanwhile, the adverse social-economic impact of the pandemic continues to drive millions of children into extreme destitution and livelihood insecurity whilst exacerbating the vulnerability of families to natural hazards, such as typhoons and floods, and protracted humanitarian situations due to unresolved conflict and political instability.

In late December and January, Fiji was struck by two consecutive severe tropical cyclones (Yasa and Ana) affecting more than 20,000 children. The storms caused widespread flooding and damage to houses, health facilities and schools. In the Philippines, armed conflict erupted on 18 March between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Maguindanao province. As of 23 March, a total of 10,156 families or 51,050 individuals have been displaced and are staying in 44 evacuation sites in seven municipalities in Maguindanao. Based on the initial assessments, the identified needs are food, water, sleeping kits, hygiene kits, emergency latrines, emergency shelter, and solar lamps.

In Myanmar, on 1 February the Myanmar Armed Forces staged a military coup and detained senior government leaders, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, the President, Union ministers, and Chief ministers of all states and regions. A state of emergency was declared, and the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing became the Head of State. He now holds full executive, legislative and judicial powers under the state of emergency. A civil disobedient movement and various forms of anti-coup demonstrations continue nationwide despite violent crackdowns by the Myanmar Military. Day and night raiding into civilian houses and arbitrarily arrests are reported across the country. Disruption of services, including the health care sector, banking sector, and transportation have resulted in restricted access to critical life-saving services, especially for a vulnerable population. Conflict and displacement continue in Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and in the Southeast, while the situation in Rakhine remains tense. Further details on the situation in Myanmar and UNICEF's response can be found in a separate [situation report](#) dedicated to the Myanmar 2021 HAC appeal.

Humanitarian Strategy

To respond to shocks and stresses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF focuses on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of country offices, government counterparts and partners by establishing adequate preparedness measures and providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and inclusive humanitarian action. UNICEF also strengthens risk-informed programming to address both the immediate and longer-term impacts of crises. This includes sustaining the delivery of life-saving interventions in chronic protracted humanitarian situations by providing basic and essential humanitarian supplies in line with global standards; strengthening the timely and effective delivery of essential health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, especially for the most vulnerable children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women; and building the capacities of local service providers and caregivers. This also includes analysing multi-dimensional risks and threats to children; integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into development plans; and building inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems.

UNICEF also strengthens the integration of cross-sectoral efforts to address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on gender-based violence services, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in emergencies. To ensure greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian settings and learn from previous emergencies, including the COVID-19 response, UNICEF expands knowledge management efforts and advances humanitarian innovations.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF continues to support governments and communities to control the spread of the virus and minimize morbidity and mortality, including by enhancing preparedness for the possible second and third waves of COVID-19. In addition, UNICEF addresses the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in the region by restoring children's mental and physical well-being in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection, focusing on the most vulnerable. This is done in line with the concept of 'building back better' to ensure clear linkages between the humanitarian response and longer-term development efforts.

Partnerships and Coordination

At the regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to reduce transmission and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 with national authorities, UN and partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control, NGOs, community-based organisations, and the private sector. To assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and women, UNICEF is coordinating with multiple agencies at the regional and national level. With the support of UNICEF's EAP regional office, country offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Together with WHO and Gavi, UNICEF also aims to support country readiness for COVID-19 vaccine roll out while supporting the strengthening of health systems. This includes providing commodities needed for safe vaccine administration, such as cold chain equipment, personal protective equipment, and hand hygiene (soap and hand sanitizer), operational costs for vaccine delivery and associated technical assistance. Crucially, this also includes support for vaccine delivery to humanitarian populations. The seven support areas are in alignment with the categories of National Deployment and Vaccination Plans and include: planning and coordination, prioritization and targeting, service delivery, training, monitoring and evaluation, vaccine cold-chain and logistics, communication and community engagement.

Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

The following response actions are in relation to the EAP 2021 HAC appeal which includes UNICEF's response in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Results from UNICEF's response to the situation in Myanmar and the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out across the region are reported under dedicated situation reports.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting governments to provide life-saving nutrition interventions in response the pandemic and other emergencies. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided **9,010 children aged 6 to 59 months** with treatment for severe acute malnutrition and provided **6.5 million children and adolescents** with messages on healthy diets.

- In **Mongolia**, regular nutrition counselling for children aged 0-5 years is ongoing in target provinces. A total of 63,342 children (31,680 girls and 31,662 boys) received nutrition counselling service in the first two months of 2021.
- In the **Pacific**, essential nutrition supplies and commodities for treatment of malnourished children arrived in Solomon Islands and Fiji. Solomon Islands received 42 boxes of Plumpy'Nut Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) spread, 4 boxes F-75 therapeutic milk and 12 boxes of F-100 therapeutic milk to be distributed to 37,000 children. Fiji received 706 boxes of Plumpy'Nut RUTF spread, 58 boxes F-75 therapeutic milk and 58 boxes of F-100 therapeutic milk. In FSM, banners on nutrition promotion during COVID-19 were sent to 185 schools, reaching approximately 8,000 adolescents and over 200 children engaged every Sunday on healthy eating through Faith for Life School Ambassadors.
- In the **Philippines**, a total of 719 frontline workers and 1,132 caregivers were trained on Family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference – the training activities empower mothers and caregivers to identify and manage children with acute malnutrition in the community.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF field offices in Banda Aceh and Nusa Tenggara Timur Province officially handed over 3,500 boxes of RUTF supplies to the local government authorities, to support the scale-up of treatment of severe child wasting during the pandemic. UNICEF also provided quality technical guidance to local governments to support building back the biannual vitamin A supplementation round in February across all eight UNICEF focus provinces. In addition, continued efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of health and non-health staff to deliver quality nutrition services during the pandemic including prevention and treatment of child severe wasting, growth monitoring, and infant and young child feeding counselling. Efforts were continuously made to disseminate key messages on nutrition, healthy diets, and essential nutrition services through various media channels, which reached 5.1 million people across the country.
- In **Viet Nam**, in coordination with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), UNICEF procured 60 tons of RUTF to treat severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM/MAM) in six affected provinces: Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum. With UNICEF's technical assistance, NIN completed a series of rapid training for the deployment of 660 frontline health staff who conducted SAM screening for children under five through the campaigns rolled out since early January 2021. To date, 124,914 children under five were screened to detect acute malnutrition, and 3,606 children with SAM and 2,629 with MAM were identified and under treatment. The screening campaigns reached the hard-to-reach children, who were usually not in day-care centres or kindergartens.

Health

UNICEF is supporting governments and communities to control the spread of the COVID-19 and restore essential health services from the impact of the pandemic and other emergencies, in order to minimize morbidity and mortality. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided access to primary health care for **382,054 million children and women** and vaccinated **4.8 million children** against measles.

- In the **Pacific**, Health Care on Air, a radio broadcast training programme for healthcare workers, is continuing to broadcast in Tonga, Tuvalu, FSM, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Nauru. A total of 1,003 health workers have registered for the programme in Fiji, reaching nearly 60% of health facilities. 12 health facilities (100%) in Samoa received technical assistance in implementation of the protocols for provision of immunization, new-born PNC, nutrition and care of the sick child.
- In **Mongolia**, regular antenatal service for pregnant women and home visit counselling for children are ongoing. A total of 8,023 pregnant women received antenatal care service in Zavkhan, Govi-Altai, Bayankhongor provinces, Bayanzurkh district of Ulaanbaatar in the first two months of 2021. In the same period, a total of 43,052 children (21,326 girls and 21,726 boys) aged 0-5 received home visit counselling.
- In **Thailand**, on 8 January UNICEF provided personal protective equipment to NGO partners (MWRN and Proud Association) to be distributed among staff, migrant health volunteers, and translators supporting public health officers in tracing and follow-up of cases in affected communities. The equipment included: 650 face shields, 1,800 isolation gowns, 400 boxes of disposable face masks, 380 boxes of gloves, and 100 gallons of disinfectant.

WASH

UNICEF is supporting governments, health workers, schools and communities to promote hygiene and ensure children and their families essential WASH services and supplies, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided **1.3 million people** with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services. UNICEF also provided **258,962 people** with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities.

- In **Cambodia**, hand hygiene supplies and facilities reached over 25,000 poor family members in Ratanakiri and on-going hygiene promotion reached a target population of 1.6 million, including through the use of local radio stations. UNICEF also facilitated country stakeholder participation in a regional Hand Hygiene for All conference with the private sector.
- In **DPRK**, UNICEF continued leading the WASH sector working group remotely together with IFRC and Concern Worldwide. In the current operational context, UNICEF is focusing on three priorities to sustain the delivery of life-saving interventions in the WASH including (1) continue support on emergency preparedness, and response (2) completion of on-going activities carried over from 2020 (3) remote technical support.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF has expanded its support to extra alternative learning schools in Sabah and refugee schools in Klang Valley covering 27,490 children and their families with essential hygiene supplies including reusable sanitary pads during the reporting period. To date, 100,990 people (children and their families) from undocumented communities in Sabah, detainees in Immigration Detention Centre, and refugee schools in Klang valley, and low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur have received essential hygiene kits and health education sessions. To date, 310,600 face masks, 57,542 soaps, 4,200 hand sanitizers (500ml), 368 contactless thermometers, 2,300 reusable sanitary pads, and 500 clothes distributed across the country and 60 handwashing station installed at alternative learning centres in Sabah.
- In **PNG**, UNICEF reached 16,414 students (36 with special needs) through targeted COVID-19 prevention/response campaigns in Goroka and Mt. Hagen, including handwashing facilities in schools for 11,824 students. Hygiene kits have been distributed to 5,500 vulnerable families, including information and hygiene products to help stop the spread of virus and increase COVID-19 behaviour change knowledge. Nearly 96,000 people benefitted from rehabilitation of WASH infrastructures in eight health facilities of Lae and Goroka. More than 137,400 students in 290 schools have soap for hand washing at all times, with distribution of 250,000 soaps supported by Colgate Palmolive
- In **Timor-Leste**, 70,930 people, including 63,663 under 18 years old (25,888 girls and 37,775 boys) and 7,267 over 18 years old (3,561 female and 3,706 male) were reached with WASH supporting, including: 169 hand washing tanks (1,100 L) delivered to schools (one per school); four renovated and functional public toilets in three municipalities; and construction of permanent WASH facilities at five critical border facilities in three municipalities.
- In the **Philippines**, in response to armed conflict, UNICEF has provided WASH supplies to the Province of Maguindanao, where the conflict is concentrated, including: 1,994 family hygiene and dignity kits for 9,970 people; 2,000 water kits for 10,000 people; and 1,000 tarpaulin sheets for the privacy of especially women and girls for bathing and/or shelter.
- In **Viet Nam**, in response to floods and storms, UNICEF distributed WASH supplies, including 4,034 ceramic filters and 51,389 detergent packs and soap bars, to the most affected communities in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. UNICEF further distributed 13,404 bottles of hand sanitizer to 87 schools and 36 commune health centres, 1,212 water tanks, and 2,020 ceramic water filters to 3,232 vulnerable households, and installed 36 water filtration systems in schools of 33 communes in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Ha Tinh provinces. The beneficiaries have been guided on properly using and maintaining a ceramic water filter and a water tank. The third batch of WASH supplies is being distributed to four other provinces, namely Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum. A joint field assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and UNICEF was conducted in these provinces and has informed the detailed plan for repairing WASH facilities in schools and health centres. The work of repairing and fixing these facilities is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

UNICEF is working with implementing partners to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children and adolescents, including dedicated child-friendly helplines for children. UNICEF continues to provide technical leadership and support in child protection cluster coordination, ensures continuity of child protection services during COVID-19, and strengthens child protection in emergencies, gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE), and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) measures to better protect children and women. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported **58,783 children and caregivers** in accessing mental health and psychosocial support and **4 million women, girls and boys** in accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. UNICEF also helped reunify **7,052 unaccompanied and separated children** with their primary caregiver or provided the children with family-based care/alternative care services.

- In **Cambodia**, in partnership with the NGO APLE, UNICEF Cambodia developed and implemented an education programme to keep children safe online during the pandemic. 401,285 children, 8,383 parents and caregivers and 81 practitioners from child protection NGOs were reached with online messages, online courses, face-to-face awareness raising sessions or virtual capacity building training to increase their knowledge and skills on online risks, safety measures and reporting of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) cases. 407,962 children, young people, parents and caregivers were reached with the information about the mechanism for reporting OCSEA

cases through the national five-year behaviour change communication campaign designed to end violence against children in Cambodia.

- In **Indonesia**, prevention of child marriage activities in Bone, South Sulawesi continued with adherence to COVID-19 health protocols. While the pandemic increased the risk of child marriage, the interventions that took place in Bone before and during the pandemic helped decrease child marriage cases from 113 in 2019 to only 24 in 2020. UNICEF developed partnerships with civil society organizations in Central Java, East Java, South Sulawesi and Papua provinces to reach over 100,000 girls and boys with improved child protection and welfare and services and train 3,375 community facilitators on psychological first aid and understanding vulnerability and identification of vulnerable children and families.
- In **Lao PDR**, a total of 92 cases were admitted to the Lao Women's Union (LWU) protection shelter during the reporting period, including cases of domestic violence, family conflict and rape. UNICEF provided financial and operational support to LWU to identify 1,362 cases through the helpline, provide psychosocial support through face-to-face counselling and offer comprehensive case management support and referral to legal, health and rehabilitation services to survivors of violence. UNICEF also supported the Lao Youth Union (LYU) to develop a video series for youth on MHPSS services and counselling support during COVID-19. Three dissemination events were conducted in three secondary schools in Luang Prabang province and four secondary schools in Vientiane, reaching a total of 1,490 young people (640 female and 850 male), students, teachers and sub-national LYU staff.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF responded to the humanitarian needs of 540 children separated from their parents, who were locked down in their workplaces due to COVID-19 outbreaks inside Ulaanbaatar hospitals and residential care centres. UNICEF also cooperated with the Mongolian Red Cross Society to reach 325 vulnerable families with essential food and hygiene supplies. To support mental health needs of children left behind, a set of colouring and reading books were delivered to children along with the food packages.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues to support the nationwide helpline of the Philippine Red Cross. As of 10 March, 66,224 helpline callers were provided with information on health and protection. Of this number, 38,155 were provided assistance on psychosocial support and case management (2,302 boys, 1,805 girls, 21,175 men, 12,597 women, 276 undisclosed). Chat-based modality through Facebook was also initiated in December to reach adolescents and young adults who are not accessing the phone-based hotline.
- In **PNG**, UNICEF also conducted a U-Report Poll on 9 February 2021 on the "Perception on COVID-19 Vaccine". Of the 79 respondents, 49% responded that they would take the COVID-19 vaccine if it was recommended to them, whilst 26% stated they would not take it, and 25% were not sure. The poll also asked the reasons why they would not take it and 45% stated that they did not know enough about the vaccine, 14% think it's not safe, 4% believe it will not stop COVID-19, and another 4% based their reasoning on negative rumours they heard about the vaccine.
- In **Thailand**, 1,798 children and caregivers received messages on COVID-19 prevention as well as mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF also continue to strengthen the hotline and helpline who providing child protection counselling and case management through regular monitoring of the services.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF delivered 30 kits of materials for children in isolation facility to play and do mindfulness activity while they are in isolation facilities due to COVID-19 infections.
- In the **Pacific**, with UNICEF support, personnel from the Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation Social Welfare Division actively responded to Tropical Cyclone Yasa in 38 affected communities, including dialogue with adults and children covering COVID-19 child protection and MHPSS messaging/tips.
- In **Viet Nam**, as part of the response to storms and floods emergency, in close coordination with UNFPA and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), UNICEF reached 3,400 children in identified vulnerable districts in all targeted six provinces with dignity kits containing gender-sensitive essential supplies. With UNICEF support, 34 facilitators were trained as resource persons and have in turn trained 425 frontline workers to provide protection and psychological support to children and their families in affected communities. To keep children and women safe from violence and abuse, from injuries and life threats as well as to prevent family separations, UNICEF also conducted communications activities with messages on prevention of risks during emergencies that were effectively conveyed to those most in need. To date, UNICEF has reached a total of 24,165 children and parents with psychosocial support and case management services.
- On 17 March 2021, UNICEF **EAP Regional Office** hosted the first session in an 8-part regional Child Protection in Emergencies Learning Series, addressing operationalizing the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children and the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Education

UNICEF is supporting governments to ensure the continuity of learning through safe and inclusive school operations. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported **112,618 schools** to implement safe school protocols and **22 million children** with access formal or non-formal education, including early learning. UNICEF also supported **9,279 children with disabilities** with access to learning.

- In **Cambodia**, 50 schools were used as COVID-19 quarantine centres in January 2021. In response, UNICEF provided 35,055 textbooks to support students unable to attend their schools. As of 25 March, 293 schools across 18 provinces are now being used as quarantine centres. UNICEF, with funding from Global Partnership for Education, disbursed US\$ 4.2 million for school budget top ups to all 7,258 primary schools and 1,755 lower secondary schools, reaching 2,640,350 students to support them with distance and remedial learning and safe school reopening.

- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF is strengthening teacher capacity through Massive Online Learning Course (MOOC)/Teacher Digital Learning Community via MOE Google Classroom platform with MOE and Arus: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/ldp-digital-learning/home> (with accessibility features for learners and teachers with disabilities) to maintain continuity of student learning on the MOE digital learning platform (DELIMa) - also available to teachers from refugee schools and alternative learning centres. Content has been accessed by 3,394 teachers from 2,038 schools of which 48 per cent are non-urban/rural schools, with a reach of over 100,000. The platform includes a resource bank of over 1,000 resources in 25 different formats curated from teachers who have completed the MOOC; and have received over 30,000 views: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/banksumberkgdl/laman-utama?authuser=5>
- In **PNG**, information, education and communication (IEC) materials on COVID-19 prevention and awareness were distributed to 412 schools in five provinces. Materials previously promoted on social media platforms, in print, and on the radio have been printed for a fresh 'back to school' campaign beginning 19 April, when schools resume post lockdown. Sustainable menstrual hygiene management kits for 5,589 female teachers and girls have been locally hand sewn and packed in Port Moresby ready for distribution to Sandaun and Western Provinces upon school resumption. These kits will form part of a back to school backpack delivered to 40,427 students (20,325 girls and 20,102 boys) which will incentivise student and teachers return to school providing essential stationery, solar radios and hygiene materials.
- In **Thailand**, during the closure of 63 migrant learning centres in Tak province, UNICEF provided material support including WIFI routers, internet packages, thermal scanners, stationery, floor mats, audio speakers, printing and distribution of worksheets to support home-based learning for 8,350 children (4,164 girls and 4,186 boys). On 10-12 March, a training on COVID-19 guidelines for safe reopening of migrant learning centres took place in Tak province for 109 teachers and 24 staff from partner organizations.
- In **Indonesia**, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk of school dropout. In responding to this situation, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Village, conducted monitoring on the impact of the pandemic on children's education. Capacity-building efforts have been provided to district and village government stakeholders from 354 districts in 33 provinces to strengthen their ability to monitor continuation of children's and adolescents' education. The monitoring that covered more than 100,000 poor households with more than 123,000 7-18 years children and adolescents in 1,151 villages identified that more than 1,200 (almost 1 per cent of children and adolescents) have dropped out of school due to the pandemic. The main factor for dropping out was economic related. Furthermore, three out of four children and adolescents from these disadvantaged households who were still enrolled in school had at least one risk factor for dropping out such as economic reasons, lack of facilities or access to distance learning, child marriage, disabilities, etc. The monitoring has been followed up with training workshops for 59 districts of the 354 districts to equip the district and village government officials with necessary knowledge and skills that can be used to follow up the results of the monitoring. It is expected that planning and budgeting documents in these districts could integrate relevant activities that can prevent children from dropping out of school.
- In the **Philippines**, in response to Super Typhoon Goni and Typhoon Vamco, UNICEF Philippines delivered 10,640 learning kits and 154 teaching kits to Bicol on 12 March to support elementary school children and teachers in distance learning with essential school supplies.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF continues to support governments in implementing cash transfer programmes for poor and vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 and other emergencies. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical assistance and advocacy to governments, which benefited **4.2 million households** who received new or additional cash transfers.

- In **Cambodia**, 701,282 ID-Poor (a poverty identification program in Cambodia) households received cash transfers against the target of 710,476 households.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to support the government in developing guidelines for increasing coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers of a poverty-focused child grant program during COVID-19. In January-March, the government conducted disbursements through four government social protection programs with an aggregated number of up to 3 million beneficiaries.

C4D, Community Engagement and AAP

UNICEF is providing accurate life-saving information on COVID-19 through communication for development (C4D) and community engagement. UNICEF is also engaged with beneficiaries to ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP). During the reporting period, UNICEF reached **270 million people** through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services.

- In **Lao PDR**, during the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF made 122 posts with COVID-19 related messages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The combined reach of the messages was 2,918,101 and 3,612,689 impressions. Likewise, these posts engaged users 85,778 times, while the videos were viewed 539,523 times. During this period, the UNICEF Lao country office also started sharing messages on COVID-19 vaccines. A total of 44 messages have so far reached 2,776,311 and made 3,460,769 impression. 80,030 users were engaged through the messages. Between, 1 January to March, the UNICEF Laos most popular post on social media reached 759,339 people.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF has reached 81.2 million users on Facebook with COVID-19 key messages and an average of 485,064 impressions and 5,766 engagements on Facebook. Furthermore, a cumulative unique page views of 209,025 for COVID-19-related content was recorded on the official website of UNICEF Philippines.

- In **Indonesia**, since January 2021 UNICEF has facilitated bi-weekly national press briefings, including inquiries from media, and has supported the production of content; talk shows, dialogues, webinars, live programmes and educational materials. UNICEF also continues to provide support to the management, content creation and fact-checking for the government's COVID-19 website (www.covid19.go.id). The website has reached more than 7 million users since January 2021, with 13,835,311 pageviews (since it was launched in March 2020, the website has reached 36,392,513 users). Furthermore, since January 2021 UNICEF's Chatbot has provided up-to-date information on ways to protect against COVID-19 as well as information on hoaxes and misinformation about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines to more than 6,032 people who accessed the information service. In March 2021, UNICEF conducted a U-Report poll on COVID-19 vaccine perception and awareness that was responded to by more than 15,000 young people across Indonesia. UNICEF has also been working with the government and civil society organization partners to develop strategies against hoaxes and misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.
- In **Mongolia**, with VMLY&R company, UNICEF continued producing contents around COVID. A series of four short animations on COVID prevention reached 575,000 views in total. They were translated into Kazakh ethnic minority language shared boosted to their province. In February, a series of posters for celebrating the National Lunar New Year at home were produced reaching 203,000 people. "Spread Support and Gratitude" Campaign called the public for positive attitude and support to front-line workers fighting COVID. Six contents within this campaign reached 1.8 million views. Yoga class for families during the lockdown reached 200,000 people.

Cross-cutting sectors, e.g. Early Childhood Development, Disability, Gender, Adolescent

UNICEF's response focuses on reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including those living in low-income settings, children living with disabilities, migrant children and children of ethnic minorities.

- In **Timor-Leste**, 50 tablets were provided to support the learning for 278 children identified to have difficulties learning at school. UNICEF and the Commission on the Rights of the Child launched the findings of their online survey of adolescents and youth on the impact of COVID-19, with an event that engaged both youth and government representatives from different ministries for a constructive discussion of how to address the specific needs of adolescents and youth. The survey highlighted missed education opportunities and the difficult return to school for some, particularly those living with disabilities, as well as the action taken by adolescents and youth to help their community during the crisis.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF distributed 1,000 early childhood development (ECD) kits for children in Samut Sakhon (one kit per child), comprising of toys and learning materials such as story books, colouring books, crayons, and wooden blocks, as well as a guide providing tips for parents on how to use the toys to help their children continue their development. 500 kits were distributed to vulnerable young children through ECD Centres in collaboration with the Department of Local Administration, while another 500 kits are being distributed to migrant children through NGO partners.
- In **Mongolia**, given the worsening COVID situation, numerous lockdowns and the start of vaccination campaign, the demand for video call service for deaf and hard of hearing people increased dramatically in this period. Between January-March, 1,706 calls were made through the video call service Facebook page and interpretation service was provided to the users. In addition, full time sign language interpreters worked at the national Television of Mongolia to ensure accessible emergency information for the people with hearing disability.
- In **Indonesia**, the digital campaign #COVID19Diaries continues to be a platform for young people to share their experience during COVID-19 and mobilize others to take action through stories, photos, videos, drawings, etc. Since January 2021, 126 new submissions from young people were received, reaching 571,000 people and generated 131,000 engagement in social media. In addition, since January 2021, 17,592 respondents have participated in U-Report polls across all 34 provinces on COVID-19, including the global poll on the COVID-19 vaccine. In January 2021, a social media live stream provided young people an opportunity to interact with prominent public figures Minister of Education and Culture and actress Sophia Latjuba on learning during COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in 1,180 participants in a live audience. UNICEF has been supporting skills development programmes to empower young people to become active citizens. 5,470 adolescents (57 per cent girls) were involved in an innovation challenge to propose solutions to issues affecting them in their lives.
- In **Viet Nam**, as part of the floods response, UNICEF procured 900 emergency ECD kits prioritizing the most affected students and schools, mainly the remotely located satellite schools. UNICEF worked in close contact with Minister of Education and Training in procurement, shipment and distribution of the education supplies and provided technical assistance to identify the most affected and marginalized schools. To date, 900 ECD kits arrived in Viet Nam and are expected to be distributed in early April 2021, benefiting 45,000 children in four provinces namely Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam.
- UNICEF **EAP Regional Office** released a new [report](#) highlighting promising practices on disability inclusion in EAP. Interventions that led to promotion of disability inclusion during COVID-19 are highlighted in the report, including in child protection; risk communication and community engagement; data collection, analysis and research; education; social protection; WASH; and the intersection between adolescent, youth engagement and gender.

Funding

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$117.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies, including chronic, protracted humanitarian situations as well as UNICEF's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the region. So far, **a total of US\$ 31.8 million** has been received for the region (including 27.7 million carried-over from 2020 and 4.1 million received in 2021) from donors, including the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, China, the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, CERF, the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Solidarity Fund, several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, and USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$ 85.4 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. UNICEF acknowledges the generous contribution of donors including private sectors supporting this joint effort to respond and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies in the East Asia and Pacific region. Please refer to Annex B for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

Internal and External Media

- UNICEF, [Back to school in the pandemic](#), 16 March 2021
- UNICEF, [Valuing social workers as the heroes they are – Launching the Positive Perceptions Campaign](#), 16 March 2021
- Antara News, [Online violence against women up amid pandemic: minister](#), 8 March 2021
- UNICEF, [85 per cent of families in Indonesia received support on COVID-19 but more efforts are needed to reach the poorest - UN report](#), 4 March 2021
- UNICEF, [Cambodia among first countries to receive COVID-19 vaccines from COVAX Facility](#), 1 March 2021,
- UNICEF, [UNICEF Laos: national distribution of COVID-response learning materials with support from the Global Partnership for Education and video](#), 22 February 2021
- The Jakarta Post, [Breaking the cycle of malnutrition starts with adolescents](#), 25 January 2021
- CNN Philippines, [Reports on alleged online sexual exploitation of children up three-fold in 2020 – anti-trafficking council](#), 20 January 2021
- Fiji Sun, [UNICEF's Post-Yasa Child Help Locations](#), 19 January 2021
- UNICEF, [COVID 19 Policy Brief Series - Mitigating the Effect of COVID-19 on Malaysia's Children](#)
- UNICEF Philippines Facebook, [One-year anniversary of COVID-19](#)
- UNICEF Philippines Facebook, [Global COVAX deliveries](#)

Next Situation Report: 9 July 2021

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2021 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	357,115	9,010	n/a
Number of children and adolescents receiving messages on healthy diets	16,746,000	6,556,745	n/a
Health			
Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	7,138,000	382,054	n/a
Number of children vaccinated against measles	14,493,000	4,896,188	n/a
WASH			
Number of people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	6,200,000*	1,361,637	n/a
Number of people provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities	932,420	258,962	n/a
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA			
Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support**	6,468,700	58,783	n/a
Number of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	7,200,000*	4,028,320	n/a
Number of unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	34,800	7,052	n/a
Education			
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols	213,914	112,618	n/a
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	29,171,000	22,047,926	n/a
Number of children with disabilities supported with access to learning	120,000*	9,279	n/a
Social Protection and Cash Transfers			
Number of households benefiting from new or additional social transfers	7,469,000	4,248,940	n/a
C4D, Community Engagement and AAP			
Number of people reached through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services***	312,000,000*	270,844,816	n/a

*Targets have increased due to UNICEF's emergency responses to flooding and cyclones in Viet Nam, Philippines, and the Pacific, as well as second and third waves of COVID-19 in several countries across the region.

**The activity includes all direct and indirect MHPSS interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

***As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored the possibility of double counting.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available	Funding Gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	\$ 8,470,339	\$ 1,282,246	\$ 7,188,093	85%
Health	\$ 15,578,670	\$ 7,628,003	\$ 7,950,667	51%
WASH	\$ 19,201,651	\$ 4,063,212	\$ 15,138,439	79%
Child Protection	\$ 7,733,163	\$ 1,846,665	\$ 5,886,498	76%
Education	\$ 19,954,452	\$ 5,315,870	\$ 14,638,582	73%
Social Protection	\$ 6,145,703	\$ 929,525	\$ 5,216,178	85%
C4D	\$ 8,620,062	\$ 2,583,007	\$ 6,037,055	70%
Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 23,314,448	74%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 31,848,528	\$ 85,369,960	73%

Country	Requirements	Carry-Forward	New Funds Received	Funding Gap	
				\$	%
Cambodia	\$ 9,842,787	\$ 2,864,317	\$ -	\$ 6,978,470	71%
Indonesia	\$ 11,040,664	\$ 3,300,818	\$ 3,400,701	\$ 4,339,145	39%
Lao PDR	\$ 10,180,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,180,362	100%
Malaysia	\$ 1,368,800	\$ 109,622	\$ -	\$ 1,259,178	92%
Mongolia	\$ 8,121,750	\$ 961,030	\$ -	\$ 7,160,720	88%
Pacific	\$ 10,088,850	\$ 7,213,814	\$ -	\$ 2,875,036	28%
PNG	\$ 9,724,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,724,900	100%
Philippines	\$ 11,875,650	\$ 1,493,860	\$ -	\$ 10,381,790	87%
Thailand	\$ 1,551,677	\$ 541,547	\$ 768,000	\$ 242,130	16%
Timor-Leste	\$ 6,055,000	\$ 1,564,472	\$ -	\$ 4,490,528	74%
Viet Nam	\$ 5,853,600	\$ 1,430,347	\$ -	\$ 4,423,253	76%
Regional EPR*	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 8,200,000	\$ -	\$ 23,314,448	74%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 27,679,827	\$ 4,168,701	\$ 85,369,960	73%

*Includes funding for DPRK