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Reporting Period: 27 March – 10 April 2020

East Asia and Pacific Region Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

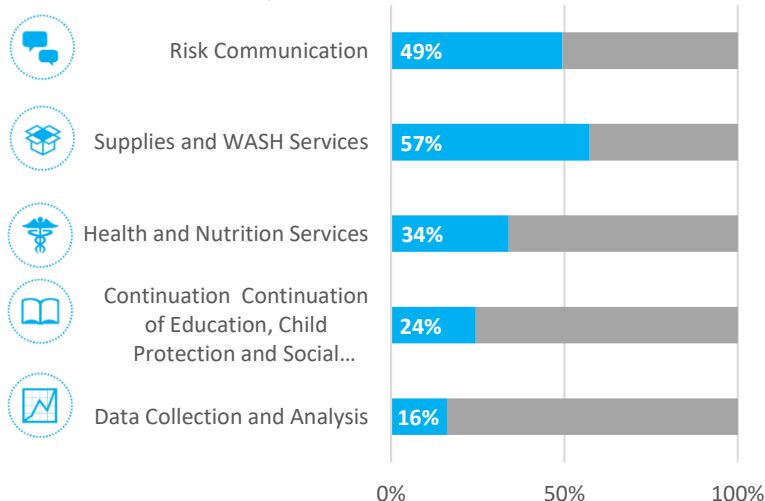
Situation Report No. 4



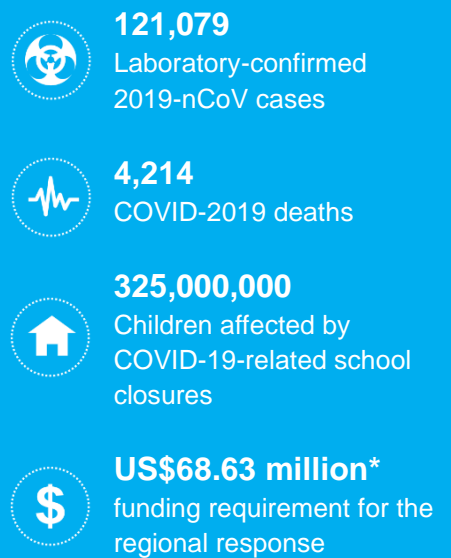
Highlights

- As of 9 April 2020, 121,079 cases were confirmed positive of COVID-19 in the East Asia and Pacific with 4,214 deaths. This entails 83,249 confirmed cases in China and an additional 37,830 confirmed cases in other East Asia and Pacific countries. Of these the Republic of Korea (10,423 cases), Malaysia (4,119 cases), Japan (4,768 cases), Indonesia (2,956 cases) and Thailand (2,423 cases) are among the most heavily affected.
- Most countries in the East Asia and Pacific region have been taking measures to prepare for or mitigate community transmission of COVID-19. While the outbreak's burden on health systems is increasing rapidly, necessary mitigation measures are affecting livelihoods and access to public services. Urgent efforts are needed to contain the outbreak and to support health systems and communities to mitigate the impacts.
- So far, UNICEF has reached over 86 million people with its COVID-19 related messages and plans to reach 152 million people in total. UNICEF also provided critical personal protective equipment for 93,000 health workers across the region.
- UNICEF's Country Offices in the region are also supporting Governments with mitigating adverse impacts on education, child protection and other public services. UNICEF supports governments in the region, among others, with continuity of learning for the 325 million children affected by school closures, preparedness of schools and institutional care facilities as well as trainings of social workers to continue child protection services. Additional resources are needed for this response, including for supplies and programmatic support.

UNICEF's Funding Status

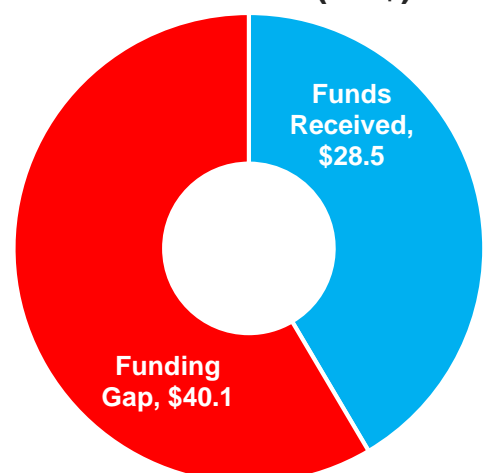


East Asia and Pacific Situation in Numbers



*Accounting for the evolving situation, UNICEF updated its global Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) and the regional response plan

Regional Funding Status 2020 (US\$)



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the COVID-19 has already resulted in 4,214 deaths in the East Asia and Pacific region¹. Necessary mitigation measures have interrupted public life and slowed down economic activity, affecting the lives and livelihoods of the 2.2 billion people living in the region. While the response by countries in the region has been unprecedented, medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, are in short supply across the East Asia and Pacific region. Countries with weaker health systems and limited capacity to deal with a major disease outbreak are at particular risk, especially now that community transmission has already occurred in several countries in the region. Moreover, public anxiety about transmission risks in healthcare facilities might severely affect healthcare-seeking behaviour, including by pregnant women and families with young children. School closures implemented by countries in the region to contain the spread of the virus have affected 325 million children and will have adverse child protection consequences, unless alternative care arrangements are put in place. UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 outbreak therefore focusses on the reduction of human-to-human transmission as well as the mitigation of the direct and indirect socio-economic impacts of the crisis. In East Asia and Pacific, this means a combination of critical upstream interventions such as technical assistance to communication strategies and IPC and prevention trainings to essential health personnel, and downstream activities such as strengthening handwashing installations in schools and direct provision of hygiene kits to vulnerable groups. To mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, UNICEF supports governments in the East Asia and Pacific with facilities for continued learning, provides technical assistance for continued child protection services and assists to leverage social protection systems to meet income needs of affected families. UNICEF harnesses its social and traditional media assets to reach people with accurate information and prevention messaging as well as to engage with children, adolescents and their caregivers. Currently, Tropical cyclone Harold, a category 5 cyclone, is compounding the situation in the Pacific by having caused flooding in Solomon Islands and Fiji and severe destructions to houses and crops in Vanuatu.

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 other partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control (CDCs), NGO partners and the private sector. With the support of UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Country Offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID 19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, as well as the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan that covers the following areas: (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) critical supply and logistics and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, (3) provision of healthcare and nutrition services, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services and social protection, and (5) data collection and analysis.

Summary of UNICEF's Preparedness and Response Actions in the Region:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

In the East Asia and the Pacific region, UNICEF has already provided public information to **86 million people** on how to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly how to protect children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. To gauge awareness and availability of accurate information, UNICEF is also engaged in "social listening" by closely monitoring the public's perception of the COVID-19 situation in programme countries and actively conducting polls among youth.

- In **Viet Nam**, the Ministry of Health, TikTok and UNICEF partnered to launch a TikTok challenge -- #ONhaVanVui (#HappyAtHome) -- calling on users to unite by sharing videos of what they are doing at home to stay safe, prevent the spread of COVID-19, and stay active. The campaign went viral and, combined, the videos on TikTok's page were viewed over 1.3 billion times. Moreover, UNICEF reached 319,000 children with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices.
- In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, UNICEF is finalizing a partnership with the Micronesia Red Cross Society for hygiene promotion campaigns that will be conducted in 26 municipalities targeting 9,500 households.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF reached 85,000 students in 82 elementary, primary, secondary, national high and technical schools through a week-long school awareness and hygiene promotion campaign as part of a preparedness plan in collaboration with health authorities.

¹ As per the WHO Situation Report of 9 April 2020

- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF reached 1.2 million people with its social media messaging. A U-report poll with 678 adolescents indicated that 64 per cent of them are grappling with negative emotions like boredom, loneliness, and frustration following the movement restriction order.
- In **Lao PDR**, UNICEF reached over 800,000 people with COVID-19 information messaging on social media, including, 600,000 people and also used social media engaged nearly 40,000 people.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF produced two videos containing COVID-19 messages with ex-president Xanana Gusmao and the Bishop of Dili. On social media, these videos were watched almost 58,000 times.
- In **China**, UNICEF's health-related messages have been viewed 17.5 million times while a live event encouraging caregivers, children and adolescents to exercise indoors was watched 9 million times.
- Youth engagement in **Indonesia** through UNICEF's U-report resulted in the polling of 8,000 youths from all 34 provinces. The poll found they had a good understanding of handwashing practices but a lesser one of physical distancing.
- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF developed, as part of its risk communication support to health authorities, 5.8 million flyers, posters and other messaging materials, which were also translated in 17 ethnic languages. UNICEF reached 7,334 children in 500 non-formal education centers with COVID-19 prevention messages.
- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF's messages on health and WASH reached 1.1 million and 1.6 million people respectively, while other COVID-19 messaging through TV, radio and social media reached another 10 million people.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF's messaging on COVID-19 prevention reached 6.9 million people through traditional media, and had a reach of 11.1 million on social media. In the meantime, UNICEF is working to produce COVID-19 related information and risk reduction materials for the migrant population, including urban refugees and stateless, in more than 18 provinces.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF mobilized youth volunteers from the Scout Association to spread the prevention messages across the city reaching over 200,000 people. An additional 70,000 posters with health and prevention messages were produced with the support of UNICEF and USAID.
- In the Mindanao region in **the Philippines**, UNICEF assisted with the development of press releases by the office of the Chief Minister, videos from the Chief Minister and the Minister of Health as well as four radio spots. These are now being broadcast 20 times per day in two languages by four radio stations, reaching a coverage of 4 million people in the Mindanao region.

Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services

UNICEF critical hygiene, medical and prevention supplies and services to support the control of transmission in healthcare settings and communities and strengthen health systems' response capacities. While UNICEF provided Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for 93,000 health workers across the region, over 207,000 people were reached with WASH supplies and services. As in many countries in the East Asia and Pacific region PPE and other health supplies cannot or can no longer be sourced locally, UNICEF's support is critical to fill supply gaps.

PPE and Health Supplies

- In **Fiji**, UNICEF donated 8,000 N95 masks to the Ministry of Health while in **Vanuatu**, 87 handwashing stations were installed.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF distributed 55 tents for pre-triage screening and isolation units throughout the country.
- In **China**, PPE consisting of 215,000 masks, 500 hand sanitizers, 100 safety goggles and 15 handheld thermometers were delivered to the Government for use by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, including community-based workers.
- In **Lao PDR**, UNICEF provided essential PPE kits to health authorities for frontline health workers in their COVID-19 response.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF provided critical Personal Protective Equipment for 500 frontline workers.

WASH Supplies and Services

- UNICEF in **Lao PDR** provided technical advice to Provincial Health Departments on disinfection and water quality for over 1,500 migrant camps.
- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF supported the Government with initiating emergency handwashing facilities for 117 townships.
- UNICEF in **Indonesia**, together with sub-national authorities, developed 7 provincial WASH response plans, which include, among others, the distribution of 340 hand washing stations, 30,000 litres of disinfectant solution and 36,000 bars of soaps.

- UNICEF in **Cambodia**, delivered, among others, 19,000 bars of soaps to the Ministry of Social Affairs for distribution among the 351 residential care facilities in the country. Similarly, the Ministry of Interior has received additional 13,000 soap bars for distribution to children and adults in all 24 detention centers in the country and two drug user rehabilitation centers which accommodates children.
- Unilever **Thailand** and UNICEF have joined forces to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through the distribution of 30,000 hand sanitizers and 120,000 bars of soap to help protect vulnerable children and young people across the country.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF provided financial support for local procurement of essential hygiene supplies, including soaps, hand-sanitizers and disinfectants, for health care facilities, schools and ECD centers in 21 provinces and 9 districts, through the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and education authorities.



A healthcare worker using a new handwashing station in Myanmar © UNICEF/Ye Min Aung

Supplies and Logistics Challenges

Although UNICEF has many pre-existing long-term agreements with local suppliers, local sourcing has become more challenging as stocks of certain PPE articles as well as oxygen therapy devices have been running low since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to increased demands globally. Where PPE supplies are available on local markets, quality certification according to international standards is sometimes challenging. Due to the school closures that effect nearly all countries in the region, it has also become more challenging to ensure that handwashing and sanitation reach children in schools. Regional export restrictions of PPE and WASH supplies as well as border closures have made it significantly more difficult to source such supplies regionally and ensure their transportation into affected countries.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF, in close coordination with partners and health authorities, is supporting countries' health systems in the region to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks. UNICEF has started to strengthen health systems capacity by supporting the training of over 266,000 health workers on the detection, management and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases whilst at the same time ensuring the continued provision of adequate health care, including nutritional services, for children, pregnant women and vulnerable communities.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF reprogrammed funds to ensure the continuation of essential healthcare services in UNICEF-supported facilities, reaching 4,121 pregnant women as well as 42,121 children under five years. Moreover, UNICEF supported the training of 94 health facilities staff and community health workers in infection prevention and control (IPC).
- UNICEF in **Mongolia** provided the Ministry of Health with nutrition supplements for 351,000 children aged 6-59 months and is conducting a post-distribution assessment of food package distribution to 250 children from 24-hour kindergartens.
- In **China**, the online training materials, including videos, for health workers that UNICEF developed with the China CDC have been viewed over 290,000 times.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health are preparing a large-scale assessment in all 34 provinces of essential health services that will inform guidance for healthcare workers on maternal and new-born child health services.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF is partnering with the Health Organization of Mindanao to provide infection prevention and control trainings, of which UNICEF is currently supporting the development, to healthcare workers across 70 health facilities in 50 municipalities.

Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

UNICEF is supporting the continued access to of education, early child development (ECD) and child protection services, including integrated case management, alternative care and mental health and psychosocial support services. UNICEF is also supporting the preparedness of education, ECD and child protection services for possible COVID-19 outbreaks in the region. Jointly with WHO and IFRC and with the support of Country Offices and the East Asia Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF released a guidance document on *Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools*. This guidance is planned to benefit almost 9.5 million schools in the East Asia and Pacific region. UNICEF's Regional Office is also supporting Country Offices for their COVID-19 response programming to account for the disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by children with disabilities.

Education

- In **Viet Nam**, to the benefit of the 9.9 million school-aged boys and girls , UNICEF supports education authorities to develop and implement a large-scale and inclusive distance learning strategy to ensure continued learning, especially for the most vulnerable, including girls.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF supports the Government with radio and TV-broadcasted lesson that are expected to reach at least 85 per cent of the country's 2.4 million students in the country.
- In **Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu**, UNICEF supported the local adaptation of global guidance on *COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools*.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF support's the Ministry of Education's with its Google Classroom platform by, among others, sharing information about webinars among teachers and polling them about their needs.
- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF supports the Government with the development of response plans and distance learning options that would benefit 9 million children should schools remains closed after the current holidays.
- In **China**, UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Education and China CDC on a "Safe School" campaign, which will include messages on school safety, health and psychological support through multiple channels for teachers, parents and children nationwide
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF supports distance learning for pre-primary and primary education through the development of TV and radio programmes based on the national curriculum.
- UNICEF in **Mongolia** is testing an innovative Chatbot mechanism to collect feedback from parents on TV lessons. If successful, the assessment methodology will be used on weekly or bi-weekly basis to systematically collect information and support the monitoring of the TV-lessons that the Ministry of Education has adopted nationwide since February.
- In **the Philippines**, UNICEF, in partnership with the education authorities' Alternative Learning System (ALS) taskforce, launched a customized website for learners and teachers under the ALS programme. The website has already been visited over 3,000 times since its launch.

Child Protection

- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF trained 160 case managers who will be deployed across 15 regions. UNICEF and partners are monitoring the situation of more than 300 Rohingya, including families and children, who are being released from detention as part of the government's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Upon their government-facilitated return to Rakhine state, UNICEF will provide case management and other necessary services to those families and children.
- In **the Philippines**, UNICEF is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and child protection authorities on the development of child protection, parenting and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) products that are planned to reach 200,000 people.
- UNICEF in **Lao PDR** is supporting child protection authorities to develop online psychosocial first aid and child protection training modules to improve capacity of social welfare workforce in responding to mental health and psychosocial support needs in the time of COVID-19 and mitigating child protection risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

Social Protection

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Villages with the implementation of guidelines to target poor households and a relaxation of conditionalities of these ministries' social protection programmes. In total, 21.6 million households and their children are planned to benefit from these programmes.

Data Collection, Analysis and Research

To better understand trends, vulnerabilities and the impact on girls, boys women and men, UNICEF is collecting and analysing data as well as conducting research on the impact of the disease on children and women and the measures taken to contain it.

- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to develop a data collection system on the functionality of health facilities and availability of health and nutrition services.
- In Mindanao/BARMM, in the **Philippines**, UNICEF launched U-Report poll among its 6,000 adolescent and youth users, finding, among others, that there is a need to better to better translate COVID-19 related messages.

Funding

UNICEF revised its global Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) for the COVID-19 response seeking US\$651.6 million. As part of that appeal, the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan budget totals US\$68.6 million. So far, a total of US\$ 28.5 million has been received for the region from different donors, including the Governments of Japan, the United States of America, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Australia, WHO, the Global Partnership for Education and the Asian Development Bank and several private donors. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$37.8 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. Please refer to Annex B for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

Internal and External Media

- UNICEF Global COVID-19 Appeal, <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>
- Xinhua, SAHRC, UNICEF join hands to protect children amid COVID-19 outbreak, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/05/c_138947871.htm, 5 April 2020
- The Japan Times, Crowded in camps, Rohingya refugees vulnerable to coronavirus, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/04/04/asia-pacific/crowded-camps-rohingya-refugees-vulnerable-coronavirus/#.Xo2CFYgzbcc>, 4 April 2020
- PR Newswire: Unilever Helping to protect lives and livelihoods from the COVID-19 pandemic, <https://en.prnasia.com/releases/apac/unilever-helping-to-protect-lives-and-livelihoods-from-the-covid-19-pandemic-276775.shtml>, 4, April 2020
- The Japan Times: Parents worry as kids stuck at home get more screen time than ever <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/04/03/world/social-issues-world/grounded-children-more-screen-time-than-ever/#.Xo2CLYgzbcc>, 3 April 2020
- Asia Times, Developing world at major risk from pandemic <https://asiatimes.com/2020/03/developing-world-at-major-risk-from-pandemic/>, 31 March 2020
- Xinhua, UN's critical work continues amid COVID-19 pandemic, http://en.ce.cn/main/latest/202003/28/t20200328_34569623.shtml, 28 March 2020

Next Situation Report: 24 April 2020

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2020 target	Total UNICEF Results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	152,343,928	86,501,738
Number of children reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices (specific to schools and ECD centres)	49,889,900	35,284,902
Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services		
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	189,787	93,357
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,925,018	207,900
Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services		
# of health facilities staff and community health workers trained in detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	506,231	266,486
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	513,271	188,042
Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	58,922,773	41,846,259
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	9,427,520	0*
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	<i>to be confirmed</i>	400
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with mental health and psychosocial support	358,250	5,188

* Activities related to this indicator are still in a preparatory phase as most schools in the region are currently closed due to holidays or as preventive measures.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk Communication	\$10,102,118	\$4,994,877	\$5,107,241	51%
Supplies and WASH Services	\$25,210,411	\$14,440,724	\$10,769,687	43%
Health and Nutrition Services	\$10,252,778	\$3,476,265	\$6,776,513	66%
Continuation of Education and Child Protection	\$17,929,458	\$4,376,567	\$13,552,891	76%
Data Collection and Analysis	\$2,938,212	\$472,472	\$2,465,740	84%
Regional Coordination and Support	\$2,200,000	\$724,237	\$1,475,763	67%
Total	\$68,632,977	\$28,485,142	\$40,147,835	58%

Country	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
China	\$7,176,600	\$3,561,344	\$3,615,256	50%
Indonesia	\$4,225,000	\$2,560,680	\$1,664,320	39%
Cambodia	\$3,500,000	\$1,535,800	\$1,964,200	56%
DPRK	\$1,320,862	\$475,600	\$845,262	64%
Lao DPR	\$3,901,122	\$972,266	\$2,928,856	75%
Malaysia	\$800,000	\$302,941	\$497,059	62%
Mongolia	\$5,837,400	\$1,513,080	\$4,324,320	74%
Myanmar	\$8,773,617	\$5,659,940	\$3,113,677	35%
Pacific	\$8,506,274	\$4,298,200	\$4,208,074	49%
Papua New Guinea	\$2,850,000	\$1,193,400	\$1,656,600	58%
Philippines	\$6,731,790	\$1,326,074	\$5,405,716	80%
Timor-Leste	\$6,100,000	\$1,819,000	\$4,281,000	70%
Thailand	\$2,668,870	\$753,679	\$1,915,191	72%
Viet Nam	\$4,041,442	\$1,815,957	\$2,225,485	55%
Regional Coordination and Support	\$2,200,000	\$697,183	\$1,502,817	68%
Total	\$68,632,977	\$28,485,142	\$40,147,835	58%