



© UNICEF/Thailand/UNI364608/Tohlala/AFP

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

## Situation Report No. 12

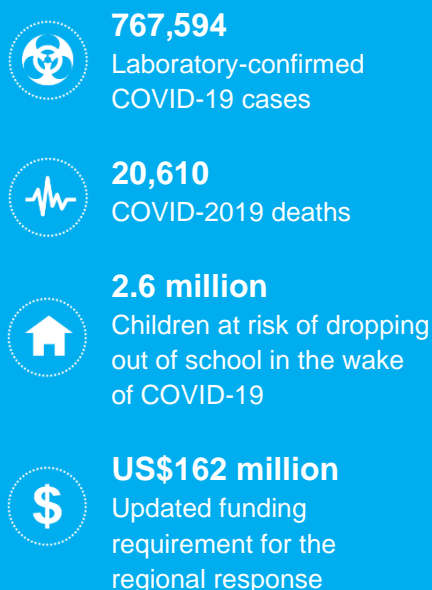


Reporting Period: 15 August – 18 September 2020

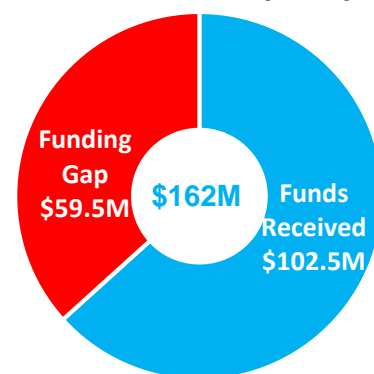
### Highlights

- As of 18 September 2020, 767,594 positive COVID-19 cases were confirmed in East Asia and Pacific, with 20,610 deaths. After months of steady decline, several countries have seen increases in cases over the past months. Philippines (257,863) and Indonesia (214,746) continue to record the highest number of cases.
- More than 2.6 million children in the East Asia and Pacific region are at risk of permanently dropping out of school in the wake of COVID-19 (UNESCO 2020).
- UNICEF is supporting governments with the “Back to School Campaign”. Most countries in the region have now started reopening schools. The Philippines postponed school reopening from 24 August to 5 October and will rely on various forms of distance learning. In Myanmar, after schools had reopened in July, all schools closed again nationwide at the end of August due to the detection of new cases of COVID-19 in the country.
- To date, UNICEF and partners provided 54.9 million children, parents and primary caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including direct and indirect interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

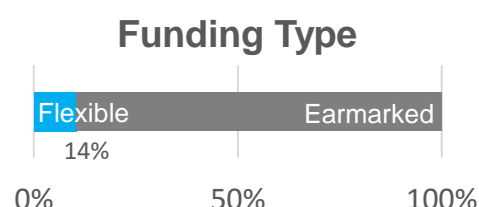
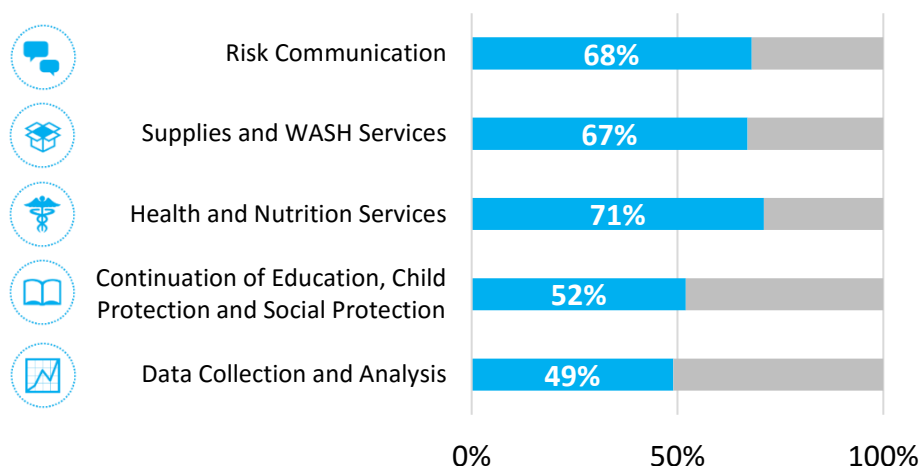
### East Asia and Pacific Situation in Numbers



### Regional Funding Status 2020 (US\$)



### UNICEF's Funding Status



\* UNICEF also received some multi-year contributions which go beyond the duration of the HAC. The total amount received including multi-year grants is US\$ 119.7 million.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

After months of steady decline, several countries have seen increases in cases over the past months, with the Philippines (257,863) and Indonesia (214,746) recording the highest number of cases. To date, 767,594 positive COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the region, with 20,610 deaths. New outbreaks of community transmission in countries such as Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam have emphasized how fragile the progress in containing the pandemic can be and has led the respective governments to resume public health measures in affected areas to prevent transmission, including case investigation, contact tracing, quarantine of close contacts, mass screening, social distancing, compulsory use of mask in public places and even school closures. In Myanmar, the occurrence of COVID-19 cases in Rakhine State and subsequent containment measures by the Government of Myanmar have impacted UNICEF's and partners' ability to provide humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and internally displaced people in camps and displacement sites. Meanwhile, countries in the region that have so far avoided significant COVID-19 outbreaks, such as Timor-Leste and Mongolia, have also extended state of emergency classifications aimed at preventing any future contagion.

According to a [UNESCO report](#), more than 2.6 million children in the East Asia and Pacific region are at risk of dropping out of school in the wake of COVID-19. In a positive sign, most countries in the region have now reopened their schools. During the reporting period, schools started to reopen in Mongolia (1 September) and Cambodia (7 September). The Philippines remains the last country in the region which has not yet reopened their schools - school reopening in the Philippines was postponed from 24 August to 5 October, schools will rely on various forms of distance learning during that time. Despite the progress in reopening schools, COVID-19 continues to pose a serious risk to education in the region. After reopening in July, all schools in Myanmar closed again at the end of August due to the detection of new cases of COVID-19 in the country. Similarly, in China an estimated 241.5 million students are now back to school. However, schools in Ruili City, Yunnan Province closed again on 14 September following the confirmation of two imported cases, leading 41,755 students to continue learning online until further notice.

With the extension and reintroduction of containment measures in many countries in the region, ensuring the continuation of child protection services remains critical. The economic impacts on families continue to adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people, including an increased risk of school dropout, violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), exploitation, abuse and neglect. Some countries in the region have noticed increased cases of violence in the last three months. Concerning [data](#) has been released by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in Indonesia, indicating that more than 33,000 child marriages have been permitted in the first six months of 2020, up from 22,000 in all of 2019 – a doubling of the rate of child marriage in the country. In Thailand, the UNICEF-supported helpline Childline Thailand received an increased number of calls in May and June, coinciding with the implementation of a nationwide curfew. In total, the number of calls and chats to Childline Thailand increased from just over 500 in January to over 4,500 in June.

Continued efforts are needed in order to ensure that the number of new cases do not flare up again and to support health systems, communities and families to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. In order to support governments in meeting these challenges, UNICEF is working with governments and partners across the region.

## Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Response Strategy focuses both on addressing immediate needs, including enhancing preventive and preparedness measures to contain, mitigate and respond to the health and socio-economic impacts as well as on medium to longer term interventions through sectoral responses. The response strategy's first strategic priority is the public health response to reduce novel coronavirus transmission and mortality. This includes ensuring that children, their caregivers and the general population receive targeted and accurate lifesaving information on COVID-19 and how they can protect themselves; improving IPC and providing critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) supplies; and ensuring access to adequate WASH services. The second strategic priority focuses on addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, including supporting the continuity of health, nutrition, education, social protection and child protection including gender-based violence services.

In addition, East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is enhancing knowledge management within the region and contributing lessons learned globally. While documentation of good practices is ongoing, sectoral and issue-based learning sessions are being organized together with country offices and external partners to exchange lessons, highlight issues and explore innovative ways of working in the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

## 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 (CDC), NGO partners, Community-Based Organisations, and the private sector. Furthermore, 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 East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Country Offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19. UNICEF is actively contributing to the joint UN socio-economic assessment for COVID-19 as part of the joint UN Task Force.

## Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

UNICEF's risk communication and community engagement focuses on how to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly how to protect children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. Particular attention is given to reach urban populations, including slum dwellers, and other vulnerable populations such as migrants, people living in remote areas and the poor, where the risk of transmission is particularly high. In the region, **UNICEF continues providing public information** through social media and traditional media to **over 793 million people** since the beginning of the crisis, targeted audio-visual messages have also been produced and disseminated to reach children and people with disabilities.

- In **Cambodia**, during the reporting period, a total number of 556 health promotion and education sessions on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been conducted at the community level in five north-eastern provinces, reaching approximately 16,865 people. Of these sessions, 344 sessions have been delivered through integrated outreach for immunization, reaching 10,660 villagers.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF supported digital content that reached 50 million people and generated over 7 million engagements (1.6 million over this reporting period) through UNICEF's social media platforms; 500,000 visitors (75,000 over this reporting period) via UNICEF's COVID-19 website; 300,000 people via UNICEF Chatbot; and 13 million people via UNICEF-produced radio public service announcements. UNICEF supported video public service announcements from prominent public figures, alongside work with 130 micro influencers who have reached 250,000 people.
- In **Lao PDR**, as part of the Back to School social media campaign, a total of 41 posts were produced that reached 2,018,113 people. The total engagements registered were 74,950 with 231,770 video views. UNICEF also launched the Recover, Rebound and Reimagine (3R) campaign to address the impacts of COVID-19 and encourage governments and other partners to develop new ways of thinking and strategies to safeguard progress for children in a post-COVID-19 world. UNICEF Lao PDR produced 11 social media posts related to the 3R campaign that reached 114,050 people.
- In **Thailand**, as of the end of August, UNICEF and humanitarian partners reached 146,908 migrants and people from vulnerable populations with community level RCCE activities.

### Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services

UNICEF supports frontline health workers and service providers to have capacity to manage IPC and to have access to IPC equipment in critical facilities. It also looks at children and their families having access to safe and affordable water and WASH, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. While **UNICEF provided personal protective equipment (PPE) for an additional 30,832 health workers** during the reporting period across the region, **reaching 326,652 health workers** since the beginning of the crisis, **an additional 1,714,800 people were reached with WASH supplies and services for a total of over 7.6 million people** being reached since January. As in many countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, PPE and other health supplies cannot or can no longer be sourced locally and UNICEF's support is critical to fill supply gaps.

#### **PPE and Health Supplies**

- In **Malaysia**, to date 118,200 face masks, 15,334 soaps, 1,921 hand sanitizers (500ml), 153 contactless thermometers, and 500 clothes were distributed across the country; seven handwashing station were installed at alternative learning centres in Sabah. In addition, as of 15 September, 36,200 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.
- In **Mongolia**, procurement of infrared thermometers to every school and kindergarten of Bayankhongor, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan aimag and Bayanzurkh district is underway. The first batch of 180 thermometers have been received and the remaining 516 are expected to be delivered within the next two weeks. Each school will receive three thermometers and each kindergarten will receive two thermometers. UNICEF has also provided hand sanitizers to 1,348 kindergarten, 820 schools and 532 dormitories nationwide, through the Ministry of Education and Science, reaching 903,782 children (448,858 girls and 454,924 boys). All provincial and district Department of Education personnel received sanitizers during their 11-12th August school reopening training in Ulaanbaatar.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, during the reporting period, UNICEF delivered 10 ventilators and 20 oxygen concentrators to the National Department of Health and distributed 631,000 pieces of PPE to Provincial Health Authorities in all provinces around the country.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF handed over 100,000 PPE items to the Ministry of Health, including surgical and N95 masks, face shields, safety goggles, surgical and examination gloves, protective coveralls and recyclable shoe covers. These supplies will be distributed to isolation centres and to front line health workers in more than 70 healthcare centres in all 13 municipalities across the country.

#### **WASH Supplies and Services**

- In **Cambodia**, following school reopening, UNICEF distributed its prepositioned 6,195 hand sanitizers, 72,725 soaps and 801 thermometers to 417 schools and 290,772 students in six provinces. UNICEF also delivered hand hygiene and school cleaning supplies to 438 schools and 136 community pre-schools in Monduliri and Kratie, reaching 76,299 students.



- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF now has WASH partnerships in place with 10 NGOs across six states and regions providing additional WASH support in conflict affected areas. Additional support has been provided through the Department of Disaster Management with supply distribution to support in multiple states/regions and discussions initiated to support on future emergency WASH training. These partnerships have helped reach 1,766,981 people with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF is working with local health authorities and health volunteers to distribute relief kits with essential food, hygiene supplies and other in-kind support to 12,930 vulnerable migrant families.
- In **Timor-Leste**, 6,540 portable handwashing buckets were provided to improve handwashing in classrooms in support of school reopening during the reporting period. Also during the reporting period, a total of 243,980 people were reached with critical WASH supplies and services, including 175,960 people under 18 years (90,144 boys and 85,816 girls) and 4,290 people over 18 years (2,188 males and 2,102 females). To date, 495,080 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services, including 415,460 under 18 (212,409 boys and 203,241 girls) and 79,430 over 18 (40,509 males and 38,921 females).

### **Supplies and Logistics Challenges**

Where PPE supplies are available on local markets, quality certification according to international standards is sometimes challenging. Regional export restrictions of PPE and WASH supplies as well as border closures and regular flight operation have made it significantly more difficult to source such supplies regionally and ensure their transportation into affected countries. Furthermore, due to the closure of regular flight operations and border closure the options of using chartered flight has heavily increased the operation cost.

### **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 strengthened health system capacities by supporting the **training of an additional 32,613 health workers** during the reporting period, **having so far reached over 562,708 health workers** in total on the detection, management and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases while at the same time supporting the continued provision of adequate health care, including nutritional services, for children, pregnant women and vulnerable communities. So far, **over 21.7 million people have been reached with nutrition messages and over 4 million children have been provided with access to essential nutrition services. The focus in the region is now on re-establishing the delivery routine nutrition services.**

- In **Mongolia**, with UNICEF support, primary health workers provided counselling service on infant and young child feeding to 84,000 children in five provinces, and six districts in August. Screening for detection of children with acute malnutrition in Ulaanbaatar city has started. Online trainings on infant and young child feeding and wasting management were organized during 17 August-11 September.
- In **Myanmar**, through partnership with Health Poverty Action in Kachin and Shan, and Myanmar Health Assistance Association in Rakhine, a total of 14,648 (Female: 6,904) people of conflict affected and hard to reach areas were provided with basic health care services. Meanwhile, in coordination with Kayin State Health Department, essential nutrition services are being provided since 1 August through trained basic health staffs in four quarantine centres. As of 2 September, a total of 223 mothers from the quarantine centres were provided with Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling. Similarly, 162 pregnant and lactating women and 39 under-5-years children were reached with nutrition screening and micronutrient supplementation. A nutrition service training will be delivered to nine basic health staffs in Hpa-An township for expansion of services in quarantine centres.
- In **DPRK**, provision of both preventative and curative healthcare and nutrition services continue to be delivered to targeted populations.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, a total of 404 front line health workers in nine provinces have been trained on IPC, clinical management of COVID-19 cases, surveillance & contact tracing, and risk communication. In collaboration with the National Department of Health and the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority, nutrition training in the context of COVID-19 was also conducted for 30 health care workers in Eastern Highlands Province. The training focused on preparation of frontline workers to provide information and support to caregivers/pregnant and lactating women on how to protect themselves, infants and children from COVID-19.

### **Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and Social Protection Services**

As students return to school across the region, UNICEF Country Offices are also including protection and nutrition considerations in the back to school campaigns (Indonesia, Viet Nam), including WASH supplies and campaigns (China, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea). In countries that are opting to delay school reopening (Philippines), UNICEF is supporting continuity of learning efforts as well as aiding governments' decision making through awareness raising on the benefits of school returns for children's learning, wellbeing and protection.

While several significant regional child protection issues have emerged and protection services has been disrupted over the past few months, UNICEF continues to work with governments and partners to ensure continuity of critical child protection services including case management. Furthermore, UNICEF is working with partners to ensure that children at risk of family separation and children and women at increased risk of violence, sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, due to COVID-19, are protected through social and protection services in humanitarian and development contexts. Increasing attention is also given to the heightened risk children and women face of experiencing violence in the home during the COVID-19 epidemic. To re-enforce the rights of children and women,

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office supported the Association of South East Nation (ASEAN) to issue a statement on mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD). The statement highlights not only the need to reach vulnerable groups of children, but also the role of social protection and social workers. This is particularly timely given the new World Bank report projecting regional growth to slow sharply in 2020, to 0.5 per cent, the lowest rate since 1967.

By supporting social protection responses by governments in the region, UNICEF helps to ensure that vulnerable children and their families impacted by COVID-19 have financial access to goods and services essential to meet their basic needs. To date, UNICEF's support to social protection services has resulted in **17.5 million households** having been reached with cash assistance.

### **Education**

- In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, Safe School Protocol Training was conducted in the last week of August by the Department of Education supported by Department of Health Services, Environmental Protection Agency, UNICEF, IOM, Chuuk Women's Council, and Micronesia Red Cross Society. A total of 47 schools participated in this training and a total of 141 teachers have been trained through this initiative.
- In the **Philippines**, where schools remain closed, UNICEF continues to strengthen the capacity of teachers and implementers under the Alternative Learning System (ALS). A three-day National Workshop on Training of Trainers for the Blended Teacher Training Program was conducted on 11-13 August which was attended by 85 selected regional ALS trainers. Another training for ALS implementers called "UPSKILL: Shaping the New Normal for the Alternative Learning System" is being conducted from 1-15 September targeting at least 300 ALS officials and implementers from eight school divisions in the entire Region IX. Meanwhile, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), UNICEF provided technical support for drafting of the Safe Return to School Guidelines for children. To prepare schools for reopening, the guidelines include IPC and blended approach to learning. It also outlines the roles of local authorities, school divisions and the Ministry. The guidelines are expected to be finalized in September. IPC training for teachers, following the guidelines, has started and all 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff will be trained.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Training in the development and roll-out of a set of equity-focused 'Safe Back to School' criteria which were re-applied at all 43,966 schools now that 21.2 million students returned after the summer holiday.
- To support countries in the region to integrate child protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into the return to school agenda, including the identification and referral of cases of violence and abuse and mental health concerns, UNICEF **East Asia and Pacific Regional Office** finalised a [School Template for Child Protection Referral Pathway between Schools and Child Protection Authorities and Other Services](#). The referral pathway is the final element of the regional return to school and child protection package, which includes an [Advocacy Brief](#), [Tips for Teachers and School Management](#) and [Messages for Children and Adolescents Return to School](#).

### **Child Protection**

- In **Cambodia**, a total of 13,667 children (7,931 girls) and 20,202 caregivers (10,343 females) were reached with key messages on MHPSS, positive parenting and COVID-19 prevention through community awareness raising campaigns with loudspeakers, run by the NGO ICS-SP supported by UNICEF. 75 trained community facilitators provided basic counselling services for 1,925 children (518 girls) and 1,000 caregivers (608 females) through home visits.
- In **Indonesia**, during the reporting period, UNICEF reached an additional 4,947 individuals (3751 children) from various MHPSS activities, including two children with disabilities. Those who were reached include 2,057 (897 female) children and adolescents during two sessions on mental health. Additionally, children and families were directly engaged with MHPSS services including 63 Rohingya refugees (31 children) in Aceh, 45 people (14 children) in South Sulawesi, and 271 adults (186 females) and 59 children (22 girls) in Central Java. In total, UNICEF supported programs have reached 1,095,642 people (368,189 children) directly alongside indirect support through messages on mental health and psychosocial support across a range of platforms.
- In **Lao PDR**, during the reporting period, 25 children without parental care were reintegrated to families or placed in appropriate alternative care. A total of 219 vulnerable children benefited from mobile social service outreach and accessed learning, including 55 street children, 34 children working in landfills, 70 children in a drop-in centre and 60 children from poor households. Meanwhile, UNICEF together with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICT) and the Lao Youth Union trained 40 provincial media personnel from eight southern provinces in Lao PDR on MHPSS and child protection risks during COVID-19. The TV and Radio spots in Lao and ethnic minority languages (Khmu and Hmong) are being aired and the same audio materials are broadcast through community loudspeakers in 4,800 villages, reaching approximately 3.4 million people (around 50% of the entire population).
- In **Tonga**, UNICEF supported TV and radio outreach in that included both COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold MHPSS and child protection messaging that reached an estimated 35,873 children (18,511 male and 17,362 female) and 50,202 adults (24,820 male and 25,382 female) – approximately 86% of the population.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues to support the nationwide helplines of Philippine Red Cross. As of 24 August, 9,790 helpline callers were provided with lifesaving information on mental health and case management concerns, among others (5,624 male, and 4,166 female callers).
- In **Papua New Guinea**, a total of 567 people, including 136 children and 51 adolescents at risk of violence and other distress received counselling support through the 1 Tok Kanselin Helpim Lain – a ChildFund helpline service that is

being facilitated through an ongoing UNICEF-ChildFund partnership and is supported by the Government of Japan and UNICEF Australia. With the financial support from UNICEF Australia, 500 sets of information materials on good parenting and violence against children prevention were distributed to households of the most vulnerable families in Eastern Highlands Province. The materials provided important MHPSS information for parents and children in the conditions of COVID-19 related control measures and isolation.

- In **Viet Nam**, from 24-27 August, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to organise a training on MHPSS for children in emergencies/disasters' for 39 participants/social workers from selected universities who teach social work in Ha Noi, the National Child Protection Helpline, and Social Work Service Centres of five UNICEF supported provinces. All participants highly appreciated the knowledge and skills relating to systematic understanding on disasters including COVID-19 and psychosocial impacts on children, guidelines and principles on MHPSS from the Inter Agency Steering Committee, psychological first aid and basic trauma-focused psychological interventions for children in the aftermath of disasters. These participants now become resource persons for improving workforce to support MHPSS for children during COVID-19. UNICEF also supported an online version of the guideline on protection of children and women for staff working in quarantine centres and social protection centres, the communication materials on mental health and psychosocial support for children and adolescents in quarantine centres and social protection centres.

### **Social Protection**

- In **Cambodia**, the National Cash Transfer Programme for poor and vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 launched on 25 June and has now covered three rounds. As of 14 September, 585,852 households benefited from the programme, out of an increased target of 669,063 households. Preparations are underway for the next round of consultations and coaching with districts and communes as well as preparations for the delivery of the 4<sup>th</sup> round of payments at the end of September.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF is providing ongoing support to the government in developing guidelines for increasing coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers of a poverty-focused child grant program during COVID-19. UNICEF also provided support on the design of a modified mechanism of for a locally controlled 'village fund' that has so far benefitted 6.5 million poor families not currently accessing national social protection programmes.
- In **Myanmar**, the government initiated a vertical expansion of the existing government-led Maternal and Child Cash Transfer, whereby an additional one-off/top up of 30,000 MMK (~\$20) was provided to all beneficiaries (240,000 pregnant and lactating women or women with young children) in July 2020, with the objective of boosting the purchasing power of families to buy nutritious foods. This "top up" was in addition to the 45,000 MMK (~\$30) received quarterly. In addition to this, the Department of Social Welfare/Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has also launched a temporary one-time cash transfer for pregnant women of all nine states/regions where Maternal and Child Cash Transfer is not being implemented. A total of 457,000 women are expected to receive the cash transfer which will take place in October 2020. UNICEF has been providing technical support in adaptation of the implementation procedures including social and behavioural change communication on key health and nutrition behaviours for these additional payments to existing and new beneficiaries. UNICEF is also supporting digitizing of the beneficiary database which will support a socio-economic registry of vulnerable populations, to be developed at the later stage.

### **Cross-cutting areas: Adolescent and Youth engagement, Disability, Gender**

- In **Kiribati**, UNICEF supported two prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse trainings covering zero tolerance policies, the obligation to report, victim assistance and child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) referral pathways during COVID-19 (reaching 48 females).
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF supported Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines and U-Report Ambassadors in launching 'U-Report Live' on 20 August via the U-Report Facebook page. Under the theme 'Mindanao Youth: Adapting and Thriving for a Better Normal in Peace and Resilience,' the programme calls on all young people to connect and share their voices, ideas and actions for a Better Normal in peace. The initiative was designed by youth leaders to ensure the active participation of young people in the context of COVID-19 and to share their experiences on how they adapt and utilize positive coping mechanisms to stay healthy, active and creative.
- In **Thailand**, on 18-19 August, UNICEF conducted a training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) together with the training on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for 9 humanitarian CSO partners at UNICEF offices. More than 30 participants from nine NGO partner organizations attended the training. The training aimed at strengthening capacity for the development of M&E plans and assess the progress and effectiveness of their COVID-19 RCCE related activities. In addition, the focus on PSEA training equipped partners who are working closely with children and families at community level with technical understanding and important knowledge, skills, and attitudes that would enhance the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure that our humanitarian interventions will not inflict harm towards beneficiaries.
- On 12 August, the UNICEF **East Asia and Pacific Regional Office** concluded the Regional Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) [Learning Series](#). The series reached over 800 participants from across the region, agencies (UN, NGOs and Government) and sectors with guidance on GBV risk mitigation; GBV rapid assessment, service mapping and referral pathways; disability inclusion and GBViE; GBV case management; and GBV prevention.



## Data Collection, Analysis and Research

UNICEF generates data analyses and evidence on consequences and impacts of the pandemic to social services to advocate and inform social protection services and the wider response to the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF is working with partners on the secondary impact assessment.

- In **China**, two journal articles were drafted and are now under peer review on the impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women and children. These include: 'A study of breastfeeding practices, SARS-CoV-2 and its antibodies in the breast milk of mothers confirmed with COVID-19', which has been submitted to the Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific; and 'A Multi-Center Survey on Postpartum Mental Health of Mothers with COVID-19' in Hubei Province, which has been submitted to the Journal of Translational Medicine. The articles are based on data from the ongoing multi-centre longitudinal study being carried out in Wuhan City, Hubei Province.
- In **Indonesia**, a report on rapid assessment of home-based learning among children with disabilities has been finalized. Most of the respondents (74%) stated that it was difficult to follow the online learning. The biggest challenge is difficulties in concentrating on learning due to the environment condition, for instance because of the interference from other family members as well as due to the limited facilities and accessibility to needed materials and equipment at home. In addition, lack of access to the internet due to physical or financial reasons was highlighted as a main obstacle for children with disabilities to effectively engage in learning activities at home.
- In **Thailand**, the joint UN social impact assessment of COVID-19, under the leadership of UNICEF and UNDP, has been finalised following incorporation of comments received from national and UN partners into the final report. UNICEF is continuing its partnership with the Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation (TDRI) by developing a package of policy recommendations based on the socio-economic impact assessment which will provide recommendations to the Royal Thai Government as well as feeding into the UN Common Country Analysis. The assessment has already provided critical inputs to a high-level meeting between representatives from UN agencies and the Governor of Bank of Thailand and has substantially informed the UN socio-economic response plan. Further dissemination and policy discussions at high-level will take place on 23 September, in a joint workshop between the UN and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) where the key findings and policy recommendations will be shared and discussed.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF released a [Rapid Assessment](#) on the Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Children and Families in Viet Nam. The assessment highlighted several child protection concerns including online exploitation and abuse resulting from school closures and physical distancing recommendations. The assessment found that children spent more time online and less time exercising. While online, children were exposed to cyberbullying, inappropriate content and heightened risk of exploitation. For example, the assessment uncovered an online beauty contest for girls aged 12-15, who had to submit naked pictures to participate. The assessment further found an increase in violence against children and women. The Viet Nam Women's Union reported double the number of newcomers to its shelter for domestic violence survivors since the beginning of the pandemic, while 3.4 per cent of participants in the study reported children suffering physical and verbal abuse in the home. Finally, the assessment found that the pandemic led to increased stress, anxiety and depression among children. Children living in restricted areas suffered from increased anxiety, while children of primary school age and above experienced more mental health and psychosocial challenges than younger children because of heightened awareness of their surroundings.

## Funding

UNICEF revised its Global HAC for the COVID-19 response in July 2020 and is now seeking US\$1.9 billion globally. As part of that appeal, **the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan budget increased to US\$162 million**. So far, **a total of US\$102.5 million** has been received for the region from different donors, including the Governments of Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, the European Commission, China, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, CERF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Solidarity Fund, several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, Denmark, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, UK and USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$59.5 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 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

- Cannel News Asia, [Coronavirus stigma runs deep and dangerous in Indonesia](#), 17 Sept 2020
- Reuters, [Myanmar races to build field hospital as coronavirus surge stretches health system](#), 16 Sept 2020
- Bangkok Post, [Covid shock worse than expected, ADB says](#), 16 Sept 2020
- The ASEAN Post, [Jakarta Re-Imposes Partial Virus Lockdown](#), 15 Sept 2020
- The Guardian, [Just \\$5 per person a year could prevent future pandemic, says ex-WHO head](#), 14 Sept 2020
- BBC, [Coronavirus: Beijing's back and forth lockdown](#), 14 Sept 2020
- UNICEF, [COVID-19 could reverse decades of progress toward eliminating preventable child deaths, agencies warn](#), 9 Sept 2020
- Tatoli, [USAID and UNICEF announces health promotion equipment to be delivered to seven municipalities](#), 9 Sept 2020
- ABC News, [As Indonesia cases soar, medical workers bear the burden](#), 9 Sept 2020
- UNICEF, [Insights from the Cambodian experience in preventing the spread of COVID-19](#), 4 Sept 2020
- The Jakarta Post, [Parents worried about vaccination children amid pandemic: Survey](#), 2 Sept 2020
- The Thaiger, [Vietnam ready to take off, international flights start this month](#), 1 Sept 2020
- Xinhua, [New academic year begins across Mongolia amid COVID-19 pandemic](#), 1 Sept 2020
- Mizzima, [UNICEF sends PPE equipment to Myanmar as virus cases increase in Rakhine State](#), 29 Aug 2020
- Channel News Asia, [Myanmar expands Rakhine COVID-19 lockdown to cover 1 million people](#), 26 Aug 2020
- UNICEF, [COVID-19: At least a third of the world's schoolchildren unable to access remote learning during school closures, new UNICEF report says](#), 26 Aug 2020
- BBC, [Ten countries kept out Covid. But did they win?](#), 24 Aug 2020

## Next Situation Report: 16 October 2020

<b>Who to contact for further information:</b>	<b>Karin Hulshof</b> Regional Director East Asia and Pacific Regional Office Tel: +66 2 356 9401 Email: <a href="mailto:khulshof@unicef.org">khulshof@unicef.org</a>	<b>Marc Rubin</b> Regional Advisor, Emergency East Asia and Pacific Regional Office Tel: +66 2 356 9277 Email: <a href="mailto:mrubin@unicef.org">mrubin@unicef.org</a>	<b>Andreas Wuestenberg</b> Emergency Specialist East Asia and Pacific Regional Office Tel: +66 (0) 23569235 Email: <a href="mailto:awuestenberg@unicef.org">awuestenberg@unicef.org</a>
--	--	---	---



## Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2020 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</b>			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services*	630,999,412	793,922,733	-
Number of children reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices (specific to schools and early childhood development centres (ECD) centres)	300,651,407	108,969,654	▲ 308,316
<b>Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services</b>			
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	282,540	326,652	▲ 30,832
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	12,286,701	7,601,701	▲ 1,714,800
<b>Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services</b>			
Number of health facilities staff and community health workers trained in detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	534,808	562,708	▲ 32,613
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	553,198	460,581	▲ 26,112
Number of women and children that have continued access to obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services	8,061,800	4,750,218	▲ 390,475
Number of people reached with nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19	17,886,412	21,714,589	▲ 1,558,615
Number children that have access to essential nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic period	4,903,046	4,050,515	▲ 264,300
<b>Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services</b>			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	80,720,967	70,614,177	▲ 16,038
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	283,387	364,599	▲ 344
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with mental health and psychosocial support**	53,707,644	54,954,605	▲ 3,510,078
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	22,523,432	17,517,303	▲ 27,611

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

\*\* The activity includes all direct and indirect mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

## Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	2020 Requirements	2020 Funds Received	2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
			\$	%	
Risk Communication	\$ 22,916,656	\$ 15,644,046	\$ 7,272,610	32%	\$ -
Supplies and WASH Services	\$ 55,316,922	\$ 37,122,184	\$ 18,194,738	33%	\$ 3,189,867
Health and Nutrition Services	\$ 34,014,727	\$ 24,020,034	\$ 9,994,693	29%	\$ -
Continuation of Education, Child Protection and Social Protection	\$ 40,090,945	\$ 20,669,777	\$ 19,421,168	48%	\$ 14,024,531
Data Collection and Analysis	\$ 7,055,011	\$ 3,478,967	\$ 3,576,044	51%	\$ -
Regional Coordination and Support	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,613,886	\$ 986,114	38%	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 161,994,261</b>	<b>\$ 102,548,893</b>	<b>\$ 59,445,368</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>\$ 17,214,398</b>

Country	2020 Requirements	2020 Funding Available		2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
		Newly Received	Reprogrammed	\$	%	
Cambodia	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 5,074,108	\$ 21,500	\$ 1,904,392	27%	\$ -
China	\$ 7,176,600	\$ 3,701,493	\$ -	\$ 3,475,107	48%	\$ -
DPRK	\$ 4,658,362	\$ 474,900	\$ -	\$ 4,183,462	90%	\$ -
Indonesia	\$ 26,377,728	\$ 17,115,517	\$ -	\$ 9,262,211	35%	\$ -
Lao DPR	\$ 10,461,610	\$ 7,791,874	\$ -	\$ 2,669,736	26%	\$ 3,209,531
Malaysia	\$ 2,484,000	\$ 1,013,142	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,320,858	53%	\$ -
Mongolia	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,485,649	\$ -	\$ 5,514,351	69%	\$ -
Myanmar	\$ 24,482,374	\$ 13,239,991	\$ 177,000	\$ 11,065,383	45%	\$ 5,270,000
Pacific	\$ 19,749,680	\$ 18,609,362	\$ 235,000	\$ 905,318	5%	\$ -
Papua New Guinea	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 11,301,677	\$ 719,000	\$ -20,677	0%	\$ 7,129,867
Philippines	\$ 18,215,685	\$ 3,757,797	\$ 2,991,612	\$ 11,466,276	63%	\$ -
Timor-Leste	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 6,731,859	\$ 546,925	\$ 921,216	11%	\$ 1,605,000
Thailand	\$ 3,476,780	\$ 1,809,546	\$ -	\$ 1,667,234	48%	\$ -
Viet Nam	\$ 7,111,442	\$ 2,987,055	\$ -	\$ 4,124,387	58%	\$ -
Regional Office	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,613,886	\$ -	\$ 986,114	38%	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 161,994,261</b>	<b>\$ 97,707,856</b>	<b>\$ 4,841,037</b>	<b>\$ 59,445,368</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>\$ 17,214,398</b>

\* Funds available for 2020 and 2021 are part of multi-year contributions.