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Highlights

UNICEF works for children and adolescents in 22 countries and territories¹ in Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR). UNICEF is also present in Italy, supporting refugee and migrant populations.

- A country-by-country review of support required to act swiftly to protect children and families from the immediate health impact, and from collateral social and economic shocks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic underlined an urgent need to intensify efforts, and the need to increase [ECAR's humanitarian action for children](#) (HAC) appeal from \$38 to \$133 million.
- In Eastern Ukraine violations of the ceasefire continue. Last week, a serious deterioration resulted in civilian casualties, including seven children injured, as well as damage to schools. UNICEF has called on the donor community and foreign embassies to intensify advocacy with respective authorities to immediately cease hostilities and stop targeting civilians, including children, and critical infrastructure.
- Teachers, education technology specialists and policy makers in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Greece, and Tajikistan are now engaged in an online learning initiative, [LearnIn](#), that is helping build pedagogical and digital competencies in the use of digital technology for learning. In participating countries, UNICEF's partnership with Zurich Teacher Education University, Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires (CRI) and LabXchange is delivering solutions to improve the quality and effectiveness of distance and online learning for children.
- UNICEF, in partnership with UNDP, supported young programmers in creating digital solutions to fight COVID-19 misinformation and promote media literacy in Bulgaria and to help children and women in difficult situations under confinement in Kyrgyzstan. In Bulgaria, this first-ever hackathon, inspired by multi-disciplinary, innovative approaches

¹ Albania, Armenia, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo* (References to Kosovo* are in line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1244), Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan ** Source: World Health Organization (WHO) 14 May 2020. Figures do not include Italy.

Photo: UNICEF, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent and other national partners, is distributing psycho-social support kits to 50,000 Turkish and refugee families throughout Turkey. The kits target children like Mustafa, 13, and his sister, Ruba, 7, who were formerly accessing community-based psycho-social support services and aim to help parents continue supporting their children during the confinement period.

UNICEF Europe & Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 7

unicef 
for every child



244,685 COVID-19 cases in 22 countries**



6,666 COVID-19 deaths in 22 countries**



52.2 million children affected by COVID-19-related school and learning centre closure



\$133 million funding requirement for ECAR response

(e.g., GenU and UNICEF’s Business for Results (B4R)), gave five adolescent teams a chance to develop a concept and pitch their ideas before a jury of stakeholders, who then will select the best one for development. In Kyrgyzstan, the hackathon gave 53 adolescents working in teams just 48 hours to develop concepts of IT products to address real problems under lockdown. The initiative was supported by the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative and guidance was provided by local crisis centres. Four of the 18 proposed solutions were chosen for financing and further development.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Under UNICEF’s revised Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) for the COVID-19 response, UNICEF ECAR is now appealing for approximately **\$133 million**². Against this target, ECAR has received over **\$14.6 million**³ or **11%** of required funding. UNICEF is especially grateful for generous contributions received in this reporting period from Canada and Denmark supporting children in Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey.



Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

In some countries (e.g., Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan,) infection rates continue to climb, and countries’ capacity to respond are stretched beyond the limits of their health systems. In Tajikistan, since the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed on 30 April, the surge in infections has drawn attention to long-standing inadequacies with the health systems (e.g., poor infection control practices, insufficient staff and low technical capacity at primary health centres). During the reporting week, the country’s Minister of Health, and press secretary were replaced. In Kyrgyzstan the number of infections has multiplied at a worrying rate, with 46% increase in one week in Bishkek. One in four infections is among health workers. Despite being the only ECAR country with no Government confirmed cases, Turkmenistan’s President acknowledged that a second COVID-19 wave in the region was possible and instructed his Cabinet take preparatory measures which include: ensuring replenishment and local production of medical supplies, ensuring health workers have training on diagnostics and establishing quarantine zones at border points. Worldwide shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators and other critical medical devices continues to limit access to life-saving care everywhere across the Region, with countries like Azerbaijan augmenting local production of PPE (i.e., face masks, coveralls).

Uzbekistan is coping with the aftermath of massive flooding caused by the partial collapse Sardoba Reservoir dam. Around 90,000 people in Uzbekistan and 30,000 in Kazakhstan were displaced. The floods damaged homes, social infrastructure, roads, and utility systems. The damage to cotton, grain and melons crops has cost farmers’ livelihoods and the region’s economy. The Government took immediate measures to help the displaced populations and provide them with essential goods and services. Plans on compensating families affected by the floods have not yet been announced, potentially compounding the already

² On 8 May, UNICEF’s updated Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global HAC appeal was issued. Globally, UNICEF is now appealing for US\$1.6 billion to support its humanitarian response for children impacted by the pandemic, up from \$651.6 million requested in a similar appeal late March. This increase reflects the devastating socioeconomic consequences of the disease and families’ rising needs. As the outbreak enters its fifth month, the costs for supplies, shipment and duty of care are increasing dramatically. Under this appeal, the ECAR revised HAC appeal now stands at USD 132,853,742, (up from an initial requirement of USD 38,070,303). The Global HAC appeal can be accessed here <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>.

³ List of donors available on request

adverse economic impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Some countries are documenting declining infection rates (e.g., Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Turkey, Uzbekistan). Albania announced its re-opening [strategy](#), planned in four stages, based on the global WHO guidelines. UNICEF led (or co-led) the development of guidelines for the safe reopening of schools in Kazakhstan, Moldova, and North Macedonia. Most of these countries have lifted some domestic travel restrictions and allowed certain commercial sectors to resume, and are monitoring the epidemiological situation, with the provision of resuming lock down measures if needed. Where governments have reopened schools, parents are exercising caution. In Belarus, 70% of children have not returned to classrooms since the declared “extended holiday” ended two weeks ago. In Croatia, preliminary data revealed only 3,000 of 150,000 eligible children attended school on 11 May when grades 1 to 4 classrooms re-opened. In the capital, Zagreb where many schools were damaged by a major earthquake in March 2020, attendance in the capital reached only 4.3% and many schools remained completely empty. The Ministry of Education warned Zagreb’s City Office that it had no authority to follow through with a decision to offer only day care, and not actual schooling, to the scant number of returning children.

Greece announced the gradual resumption of schools starting 11 May. However, restrictions on freedom of movement for those who live in the Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) and Open Sites throughout Greece were extended until 21 May. This directly impacts the ability of children to resume attendance in formal education and creates a divide between host and refugee and migrant communities. Island camps represent the worst conditions where overcrowding and lack of sanitation make it impossible to practice physical distancing and hygiene. Moria RIC was constructed to shelter 2,200 people, but the population in the area has swelled to over 18,000 people. On the island of Lesbos, almost 20,000 people are living in facilities intended for less than 3,000. There are now 204 people (including 12 children) with confirmed COVID-19 within the refugee and migrant communities. Attempts by the Government to move elderly refugees or families with children from overcrowded island camps to the mainland have run into opposition by some locals, who, according to local media reports, on 5 May attacked a hotel that temporarily housed refugees waiting to leave.

Some countries are not ready to re-open schools at this time, and some are trying to bridge gaps that have excluded poor and vulnerable children from distance learning opportunities. Acknowledging that 20% of children in Armenia cannot meaningfully participate in distance learning, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) has proposed organizing remedial classes after reopening of schools, anticipated in August. Furthermore, the MoESCS in Armenia revised its distance learning decree, paying more attention to making distance learning more accessible, for example, by requiring universal design of digital content, assessment and learning. In Bulgaria, where it has become increasingly evident that the deteriorating socioeconomic impact on families and children will be significantly higher than initially estimated, for vulnerable families, community-level service providers (e.g., Roma Health mediators, home visiting nurses, and front-line social workers) have been essential in identifying needs, making connections with relevant authorities and distributing hygiene and education supplies. The Ministry of Education (MoE) is also providing free wifi zones in vulnerable communities to enable children to access distance learning platforms.

An emerging challenge has been communicating clear and effective safety messages during this transition, particularly to avoid inconsistent messaging as many safety measures (e.g., physical distancing, wearing mask) are very much in force despite relaxing of measures. Bosnia and Herzegovina, are using results of a UNICEF public opinion [survey](#) to refine and target RCCE messages. In Montenegro, a UNICEF-IPSOS poll showed around half of respondents believed COVID-19 is contained and media reports suggesting otherwise were exaggerated.

COVID-19 has also sharpened concern on protocols to safeguard children’s health. In Croatia, UNICEF has raised concerns with the Ministry of Health (MoH) on current hospital practice of banning parents from accompanying their child hospitalized for COVID-19 treatment. Responding to the complaints from parents, UNICEF is especially concerned about the potentially harmful psychological effect separation can have on infants and young children and their recovery. Kosovo’s routine immunization programme officially resumed after six weeks of suspension due to COVID-19. The announcement included a call by the Speaker of Kosovo’s Parliament for all parents to immunize their children. Montenegro and Uzbekistan managed to carry out routine immunization services during the crisis. In Montenegro, this achievement has helped shore up public support for the country’s health system, while Uzbekistan’s impressive 95% immunization coverage has been well acknowledged by UNICEF. In Ukraine, UNICEF had a successful meeting with MoH on testing strategy, treatment, and care protocol of COVID-19 patients and the resumption of routine immunization. The Minister expressed strong commitment to solving supply issues – related to parliamentary approvals and legislative issues, between UNICEF and MoH.

The spread of COVID-19, has directly affected the livelihoods families. All countries are bracing for the longer-term impact of poor social services systems on delivery to those in greatest need. In Albania UNICEF provided technical advice and leadership to a coalition of international organizations drafting COVID-19 Joint Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for humanitarian

cash transfers (HCT). The SOPs offer a common platform for interventions and streamlines coordination across municipalities and with the national level Government. Armenia's action plan, which establishes 17 social and economic measures addressing a range of financial assistance for businesses and individuals, was approved. As a start, lump sum payments will help alleviate up to 50% of utility bills, and one-time grants will be given to successful high-tech entrepreneurs. On 12 May, Belarus's draft decree on social support was discussed with the President. Potentially, the support will benefit large families, parents of children with disabilities, people with disabilities and pensioners.

Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the so-called coronavirus law, designed to mitigate the coronavirus pandemic impact on the economy. The law foresees government subsidies to help employers pay for the mandatory employees' benefits, such as health, unemployment and pension insurance. In Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population extended the period by which anyone benefiting from disability support was required to confirm their eligibility through reassessment. This measure avoids the spreading of possible infection in crowded social benefit processing centres. A high-level meeting with Government, hosted by the UN and attended by the World Bank presented a sobering economic outlook with declining revenues due to Montenegro's strong dependence on tourism (20% of GDP). In Turkmenistan, UNICEF shared its suggestions on alleviating of socioeconomic vulnerabilities with Government. A nation-wide survey in Uzbekistan, suggested that 75% of eligible families are unable to receive child benefits, due to insufficient funding. In response to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the Government has committed to expand the coverage by 10%, which will not adequately cover the growing number of families and children falling below the poverty line. According to the World Bank, in April, the per capita income in Uzbekistan fell by a median of 38% (46% in urban areas).

Partnerships & Coordination

In some countries, UNICEF leads UN coordination on the response (e.g., Bulgaria, Romania, Turkmenistan). UNICEF is an active participant in UN coordination mechanisms and is providing inputs into COVID-19 national-level preparedness and response plans, and related discussions on reducing longer-term socioeconomic impacts. UNICEF is leading, co-leading or supporting sector specific COVID-19 task forces or working groups, including: Child Protection, including children with disabilities (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia, Turkey); Education (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan); Food Security and Logistics (Kyrgyzstan); Gender and gender-based violence (GBV) (Armenia, Moldova, Serbia); Health/ Nutrition (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan); Infection, Prevention and Control Capacity (Serbia); Health Procurement (Moldova, Uzbekistan); Psychosocial Support (Armenia); Risk Communication (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan); Socioeconomic impact, e.g., cash transfer, social protection (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan); and WASH (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan). In Turkey, partners, including UNICEF, are coordinating COVID-19 response for refugee and migrant population and vulnerable host communities within the Regional Refugee and Resilience (3RP) mechanism, while in Ukraine, overall coordination for nationwide COVID-19 response is led by the Resident Coordinator and WHO, with complementary support of UN-OCHA.

New partnerships and coordination mechanisms were established during the reporting period including:

- In Albania, UNICEF was identified as the lead UN agency for social protection and basic services under Pillar 2 of the UN Framework for the COVID-19 response.
- In Armenia, UNICEF led the first coordination meeting with Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoLSA) on social protection elements of COVID-19 in coordination with UN agencies, development partners and others. To enable joint initiatives, UNICEF and partners mapped out interventions in cash transfers, psychosocial support, supplies, needs assessments, and technical assistance.
- In Azerbaijan, UNICEF established a new partnership with the Reliable Future Social Initiatives Public Union and MoH's national Mental Health Centre. The partnership will strengthen the capacity of mental health and psychosocial social services in the education sector and, through a Child Helpline and rehabilitation services, enable better prevention and response to violence against children during and after the COVID-19 crisis.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, to help assess the impact of COVID-19 on social protection, UNICEF established partnerships with Associations of Social Workers in Tuzla, Herzegovina-Neretva, and Middle-Bosnia Cantons.
- In Georgia, UNICEF, the MoE, the Coalition for Education for All, and EMIS, with support of UK Aid, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to support online and distance learning nationwide.
- In Italy, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoH through the National Institute for

Migration and Poverty, for a needs assessment of reception centres, in collaboration with the National School of Public Health.

- In Kosovo*, UNICEF entered into a new partnership with the Kosovo* Disability Forum that will enable the provision of online psychosocial, education, COVID-19 prevention and protection support services for 3,000 children with disabilities. UNICEF also formalized its partnership with the parents' association, "Podrzi me" which enables the provision of psychosocial support for families of children with disabilities.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF is supporting the formalizing of the National Risk Communication Task Force that will be co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP).

UNICEF's ECA Region Preparedness and Response Actions

Supplies delivered during the reporting week included:

WASH:

- Albania: hygiene kits to 46,000 students and teachers.
- Belarus: soap, sanitizers, dispensers to educational institutions, children in residential care and centres children with disabilities.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: (in partnership with the Red Cross Republika Srpska) soap, sanitizers to health and social welfare institutions. 3,000 hygiene kits to Roma communities, social service institutions, and children's homes.
- Italy: decontamination products for institutional and community use.
- Georgia: sanitizers to 300 health workers at the University Hospital.
- Bulgaria: hygiene kits to 72 children living in residential care services (small group homes and crisis centres).
- Kosovo*: 620 hygiene kits to 1,372 families in need and to Family Health Centers in 20 municipalities. To support the home visiting programme, 620 baby hygiene kits were delivered to pregnant women and mothers in 17 municipalities.
- Kyrgyzstan: in collaboration with the Red Crescent Society, 280 family hygiene kits to 1,120 people in southern ethnic communities.
- Moldova: hygiene packages and food to 300 vulnerable families.
- Montenegro: in partnership with the Red Cross, hygiene kits and baby diapers to 450 households, mainly Roma families.
- North Macedonia: in partnership with the Red Cross, hygiene and WASH supply packages to 2,350 vulnerable Roma households.
- Serbia: in cooperation with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, hygiene kits to 177 refugee women and children.
- Tajikistan: chlorine, sanitizers and ultraviolet lamps to 1,500 health workers.
- Turkey: 15,000 'Learn at Home' and hygiene kits to vulnerable Turkish and refugee households in 26 provinces, benefitting 45,000 children who have limited or no access to education or safe hygiene.
- Ukraine: 3,000 bottles of water to two COVID-19 designated hospitals in Donetsk Government Control Area (GCA) covering monthly need in drinking water for 250 people. This support is the result of an in-kind donation from the water producer IDS Borjomi.

PPE and medical equipment:

- In Azerbaijan: 14,900 facemasks were distributed to NGO partners and volunteers to support community outreach.
- In Belarus: medical equipment for palliative care units in baby homes.
- In Bulgaria: 1,000 protective masks and 150 shields for 313 community workers (social workers, health visitors, Roma health mediators) providing outreach services to the most vulnerable children and families.
- Georgia: 300 gloves, face shields and masks to 300 health workers at the University Hospital.
- Italy: PPE and medicines to health facilities. As well, UNICEF supported the local manufacturing of surgical masks.
- Kosovo*: 2,400 protective coveralls to the Institute for Public Health (IPH) and Family Medicine Centres for resuming of routine immunization programme.
- Romania: nearly 80,000 gloves and 40,000 via social protection authorities for vulnerable families.
- Serbia: the first consignment of ventilator to health institutions, 31 oxygen flowmeters to health centres, and 1 pulse oximeter to a paediatric clinic.
- Tajikistan: locally procured PPE (e.g., coveralls, face shields, goggles, masks) to 1,500 frontline health workers.
- Ukraine: 4,500 sets of PPE to medical staff, 650 pulse oximeters for 22 hospitals in Donetsk (GCA)

Educational and psychosocial support materials

- Armenia: as requested by the Ministry of Justice, educational materials and stationery to children who are unable to

access online learning platforms, at a detention facility for juveniles.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 28 tablets, mobile phones and SIM cards to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to enable wider access to community mental health centres.
- Bulgaria: education kits to 414 children in Shumen, Sliven and Montana regions, UNICEF school-in-a-box to 119 children in four boarding schools.
- Moldova: books and educational materials to more than 1,000 children.
- Serbia: 104 play and learning kits, adapted to children up to 10 years old in 16 residential institutions for children.
- Turkey: in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, 5,000 psychosocial support (PSS) kits (including activity books, art supplies and toys) to vulnerable families.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services: During the reporting period, activities around immunization featured strongly. In Italy, UNICEF continued to actively advocate for maintaining functionality of routine immunization services and strengthening access to vaccination among refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. In Croatia, advice via video to parents from paediatricians and immunologists encourage immunization in children's early days. In Kosovo*, with the resumption of the country's immunization programme UNICEF provided 60 tents outside health facilities, creating space for the safe vaccination of children. In Moldova, 600 primary health staff attended webinars on monitoring child growth and preparing for the restarting of routine immunization. The webinars were conducted by Institute of Mother and Child and National Agency of Public Health with support from UNICEF and WHO.

In Azerbaijan, UNICEF used social media platforms to support the Public Health Reform Centre (PHRC) in providing parents and caregivers of young children with necessary expert advice on child health, infant and maternal nutrition, breastfeeding and vaccination of children. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF through partners continued supporting refugee and migrant families and children with nutrition and breastfeeding counselling through mother and baby corners in temporary reception centres. In Belarus, with the technical support of its implementing partner, the SPOON Foundation, UNICEF developed guidelines for residential institution administrators to keep children nourished and their immune systems strong during the pandemic through diverse, nutrient-dense foods. The guidelines also call attention to the unique needs of children with disabilities, the importance of maintaining good hygiene and food safety practices. In Bulgaria, UNICEF supported pregnant women without health insurance to access antenatal care in accordance with national legislation. In Kazakhstan, UNICEF, in partnership with UNFPA, the Republican Centre for Healthcare System Development and the National Centre of Public Health, supported the development of Interim National Guidelines on maternal and neonatal care for service providers in the context of COVID-19. In Croatia, messages on nutrition and breastfeeding reached parents through video broadcast. In Tajikistan, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) supported MoHSP in developing and issuing the simplified Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol in the context of COVID-19. In Ukraine, UNICEF's introductory meeting with the country's new Minister of Health covered support on COVID-19, and the relaunch of regular immunization programs and vaccine procurement. UNICEF is also conducting an analysis of availability of vaccines to avoid stock-outs that could result from delays in Ukraine's 2020 state budget disbursement.

A focus on home visiting services has been key in ensuring access to health services, as was noted in Kosovo*, where UNICEF-supported home-visiting programme reached 200 parents with critical COVID-19 related information during pregnancy and when caring for newborns. Where home visiting is no longer an option, UNICEF has focused on finding alternative means of reach people in need of health services. For example, in Serbia, UNICEF secured a partnership with the MoH and Association of Roma Health Mediators, which enabled interventions via telephone, reaching 5,905 family members (including 2,218 children) in this reporting period alone. In Italy, UNICEF-supported INTERSOS mobile teams helped reach 97 individuals, most of whom are outside of formal reception system, with health screenings, triage, referral activities, distribute hygiene products.

Infection, Protection and Control (IPC)/WASH Services: Access to WASH supplies (see page 5) and ensuring protocols and procedures are in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is critical to saving lives. In Tajikistan, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) to complete WASH rehabilitation projects in 3 maternities located in remote rural areas. These facilities now have around the clock access to hot and cold running water, as well as improved sanitation facilities. In Ukraine, UNICEF in partnership with Triangle Generation Humanitaire launched an e-voucher programme for healthcare facilities on 5 May as part of the COVID-19 response. Overall, 66 healthcare facilities in Eastern Ukraine have received electronic vouchers for an amount ranging from UAH 5,270 (USD 192) to UAH 77,050 (USD 2,812), depending on patient intake. Vouchers are used to buy hygiene and cleaning supplies at 11 partner shops located nearby. In Albania, preparing for the country's opening-up strategy, through an e-meeting with the MoH and IPH, UNICEF has mapped out support to necessary IPC and hygiene promotion campaigns.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE): Across ECAR, UNICEF is leading or co-leading in RCCE coordination and implementation to raise awareness and practices to keep communities safe. In Tajikistan, UNICEF provided technical

support to the MoHSP in rolling out the country's COVID-19 website which keeps the public updated on key safety information. UNICEF also launched two messenger bots on Telegram and Viber, where people can receive automated answers to COVID-19 questions.

UNICEF contextualizes global-level communication material so that messages, information and advice are accessible in diverse languages, including especially minority languages that often represent some of the most vulnerable communities, and in accessible formats for people with disabilities. Complementing traditional print (e.g., posters, leaflets) and mass media (television, radio) UNICEF's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok) and internet presence have helped to amplify messages ensure a wide reach. Highlights in this reporting period:

In Albania, UNICEF used Mother's Day to promote messages on antenatal, delivery and postnatal services for pregnant women and new mothers. Facebook recorded a unique reach of 108,965 people. In Bulgaria, a UNICEF publication on pregnancy and newborns during COVID-19 obtained more than 500,000 views on Facebook. In Turkey, UNICEF also featured Mother's Day themed messages, including from actress Pelin Akil on UNICEF Instagram Live providing tips on how parents can spend quality time with their children during the pandemic. UNICEF Turkey's social media channels has reached 47.5 million people with COVID-19 messaging.

Social media campaigns have a tremendous appeal. For example: In Albania, the #LearningAtHome reached around 580,000 people. In Armenia, #LearningAtHome this week focused on immunization and ECD. In the first two weeks of May, UNICEF digital reach recorded 413,198 people. The same campaign in Georgia amplified stories highlighting [experiences of children and young people](#) during the COVID-19 crisis. In Kazakhstan, UNICEF's [#LearningAtHome online campaign](#) reached 11,151,602 people and engaged 82,215 parents and children during the period 6 April - 11 May, promoting positive parenting. In Kosovo*, the #LearningAtHome campaign is reaching over 7,000,000 parents every week. In Tajikistan, the campaign is just being rolled out #LearnAtHome and initial posts have reached 60,000 people

Child protection messages are prioritized during lockdown, as families face tough times in prolonged confinement. In Croatia, UNICEF's social media platforms published a story on the launch of a toll-free support line for foster families which attracted a record 200,000 views.

Engaging Adolescents and Young People: All countries in ECAR have youth-focused UNICEF programmes either adapted to online transmission or initiated early on when lockdowns were imposed. Several new initiatives were launched during the reporting period, including:

- In Armenia, UNICEF and UNDP, along with local NGOs, launched two important youth programmes: Accelerator #5 for Women and Girls and Generation Unlimited (GenU). Storytelling around COVID-19 experience feature strongly in both initiatives and put the focus on young people and their online participation in GenU and GirlTEch activities.
- In Azerbaijan, UNICEF supported the National Paralympic Committee's online workout sessions delivered by 20 coaches to 140 children and adolescents with disabilities.
- In partnership with UNDP, UNICEF supported young programmers in creating digital solutions to promote media literacy in Bulgaria and to help children and women in difficult situations under confinement in Kyrgyzstan. In Bulgaria, this first-ever hackathon, inspired by multi-disciplinary, innovative approaches (e.g., GenU and UNICEF's B4R) gave five adolescent teams a chance to develop a concept and pitch their ideas before a jury of stakeholders, who will then select the best one for development. In Kyrgyzstan, the hackathon gave 53 adolescents working in teams just 48 hours to develop concepts of IT products to address real problems under lockdown. The initiative was supported by the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative and guidance was provided by local crisis centres. Four of the 18 proposed solutions were chosen for financing and further development.
- Junior Ambassadors for the Rights of the Children and Young People in both Croatia and Romania, jointly celebrated Europe Day, and created a new video emphasizing the message of solidarity which was amplified across all UNICEF social media platforms in both countries.
- In Italy UNICEF hosted an Activate Talk, livestreamed on the U-Report On the Move platform and on UNICEF Italy's Facebook. Five young speakers spoke about their digital engagement during COVID-19 highlighting opportunities and related risks. 10,976 people were reached and 1,221 engaged leading to over 3,000 unique viewers.
- In Montenegro, UNICEF, in partnership with private company Logate and NLB Bank, supported the move from a computer programming class to online. The initiative offers adolescents an opportunity to study programming at home.

Results of new opinion poll surveys not only take the pulse on how young people are doing, but also reveal gaps in RCCE

messaging. In the reporting period surveys on young people included:

- A U-Report [online schooling](#) and a U-Report poll on internet safety were concluded in Romania and Serbia respectively. Four U-Report polls on COVID-19 were also concluded in Uzbekistan for which results and analysis are pending
- An active citizenship pilot poll on the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent and young people's well-being in Palermo, launched in Italy.

Access to Continuous Learning: Teachers, education technology specialists and policy makers in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Greece, and Tajikistan are now engaged in an online learning initiative, LearnIn, that is helping to build pedagogical and digital competencies in the use of digital technology for learning. In participating countries, UNICEF's partnership with Zurich Teacher Education University, Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires (CRI) and LabXchange is delivering solutions to improve the quality and effectiveness of distance and online learning for children. Some examples:

- In Albania, through the LearnIN initiative, UNICEF provided technical assistance via MoE webinar for teachers and policy makers.
- In Armenia, teachers, the National Centre for Education Technologies (NCET) and EdTech specialists joined UNICEF's LearnIn initiative. UNICEF in collaboration with NCET and under the supervision of MoESCS, produced 400 video lessons for Grades 1 to 9, with more underway.
- In Greece, after participating in ECAR's first LearnIn workshop on distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF is working with the Institutouto Ekpedeftikis Politikis (IEP) to organize such training for teachers.
- In Moldova, a new network of teacher trainers was created through their successful engagement in the LearnIn initiative. The preparation and delivery of training to local teachers will follow the regional-level LearnIn on 6 May.
- In Montenegro, to support the Ministry of Education in creating a new digital learning platform and benefit from [teacher capacity building](#), an informal national task force was established.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a vital component of UNICEF activities to ensure continued learning. For example:

- In Azerbaijan, pre-school education classes, developed with help from UNICEF, are now being broadcasted on national television and reached over 55,000 children under 5 years old during the reporting period. The videos area also available on the UNICEF-supported [Parenting Education Portal](#).
- In Serbia, with UNICEF's support, the Ministry of Education developed a pre-school education system response plan to COVID-19, focusing on support to parents and children to learn through play at home. The plan enabled pre-school institutions to reach 127,250 families with 142,022 children (79% of children enrolled in preschool institutions in Serbia).
- In Turkey, UNICEF developed COVID-specific storybooks for use in the MoNE's Special Education Mobile App. This intervention is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen ECE for children with disabilities.
- In Uzbekistan, UNICEF has been supporting the distance learning programme provided by the Republican Education Centre (REC) under the Ministry of Public Education (MOPE). Video lessons complying with the curriculum are created and shared via public broadcast on television, on the MOPE website and on UNICEF's Telegram channel. Five lessons via TV are estimated to have reached 5 million pre-schoolers (3 to 6 years old).

Access to Child Protection and Preventing Violence: Dimensions covered in this area of work by UNICEF in ECAR include capacity building of professionals of UNICEF partners in government and civil society, social services, the justice system, and law enforcement, and also parents and teachers. For example

- In Albania, UNICEF led the 4th Webinar on Child Protection during COVID-19 with participation of statutory child protection workers from 6 municipalities, State Agency on the Rights and Protection of the Child and partner CSO staff. Among the challenges covered was the delivery of effective emergency services to children in remote areas.
- In Armenia, as the lead UN agency for the Social Protection and Psychosocial Support in response to COVID-19, UNICEF launched an assessment of Armenia's psychosocial support system. UNICEF-supported gender-based violence (GBV) frontline support services received guidance and instruction on case management and risk mitigation, often drawing on the experience of other countries, and in the form of podcasts and online training. Topics included identifying alternative entry points to reach survivors if phone and internet connections are not available.
- In Bulgaria, UNICEF has provided resources to the Agency for Social Assistance and Sofia Municipality to develop

guidelines for prevention and management of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential care settings. UNICEF provided technical assistance to Montana Municipality to develop a strategy to optimize social services during the COVID -19 crisis.

- In Greece, UNICEF, at a National Education Focal Point workshop, delivered a presentation on protecting children’s rights during a pandemic to 187 teachers and parents. As well, UNICEF in partnership with Terre des Hommes Hellas, delivered webinars on mental health and wellbeing under COVID-19, reaching 131 front line workers working with refugees and migrants.
- In Kazakhstan, UNICEF’s online parenting webinar for employees of Kazpost on parenting during quarantine, supporting children’s distance learning, reached 100 participants.
- In Montenegro, UNICEF encouraged Government authorities to pay attention to the rights of children deprived of liberty in light of COVID-19 and shared a guidance note with the Ministry of Justice, Directorate for Execution of Criminal Sanctions, and the Centre for Children and Youth “Ljubovic”.
- In North Macedonia, in collaboration with the University Clinic for Psychiatry, UNICEF launched training for staff of small group homes on providing psychosocial support to children with complex emotional needs.
- In Kosovo*, UNICEF supported parents of children with disabilities through online platforms, in individual and in group consultations.
- In Serbia, via an online platform, UNICEF organized COVID-19 webinar discussions, information sharing, and guidance on the wellbeing of social work professionals and the families and children they serve.
- In Uzbekistan, UNICEF conducted an online workshop for 13 social workers and 6 psychologists of the Ministry of Public Education on the ways to apply the recently developed Guidelines for the Provision of Remote Psychosocial Support in the COVID-19 pandemic. The training aims to ensure continuous services to children recently repatriated from armed conflict zones and families affected by migration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Protection: Across ECAR, countries need to assess and strengthen social protection systems to include all vulnerable and low-income children and families. UNICEF has been demonstrating leadership, innovation and technical expertise that enables government capacity in this area. For example:

- In Albania, UNICEF provided technical advice and leadership to a coalition of international organizations to draft COVID-19 Joint Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for HCTs. The SOPs will offer a common platform of intervention, to streamline the coordination process with municipalities as well as with Government, and to facilitate the understanding of the procedures. Three municipalities have identified about 1,800 households in need and are making local arrangement starting the HCT programme supported by UNICEF.
- In Armenia, UNICEF is working with World Vision to support the reform of the social protection system in Yerevan municipality. A [reform package](#) to respond to needs of children and families more effectively in the context of COVID-19, was presented to the municipal council for review and approval in June. The reform package emphasizes evidence based, innovative planning to resolve community-level issues.
- In Belarus, UNICEF-supported partner the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (BelMAPO) kicked off a webinar providing emergency psychological assistance and support to health, labour and social protection specialists who work with patients infected with COVID-19, which has to date, attracted 336 participants.
- In Kosovo*, UNICEF and UNDP, co-chairs on the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) Task Force Coordination Team, developed the draft UN Kosovo* Team (UNKT) Recovery Framework. The framework compiles interventions of all key agencies.
- In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF supported the delivery of HCTs to 105 children living in remote, poor, disaster-prone communities affected by COVID-19. A planned assessment of the current HCT system will inform policy change towards building a more shock responsive social protection safety net.
- In Montenegro, preliminary results of the Rapid Social Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak conducted by UN agencies were presented at a meeting with representatives of the Government on 7 May. The Assessment found that the pandemic has exacerbated existing social inequalities, while also exposing certain segments of the society to additional vulnerabilities. The report offers overarching and group-specific recommendations for tailoring the Government’s response to COVID-19, as well as for the UN support in the country.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF’s consultations with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) is

helping shape and finalize the Ministry's Social Protection Preparedness and Response Plan which will guide programming across government institutions and development partners.

- In Turkey, call centres operated by UNICEF's Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CTE) partner, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) continued functioning without interruption, providing free access in Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi, and Pashtu, enabling refugees to make new applications, inquire and updates. TRC delivered CTE debit cards to people under quarantine or self-isolating.
- In Uzbekistan, UNICEF has been cooperating with the Ministry of Finance to design and operationalise Single Registry of Social Protection, an integrated management information system that implies an end-to-end digitization of work processes related to applying, assigning and paying cash benefits. The digitization simplifies the application process.

Data Collection Analysis and Research

Examples of data collection analysis and research have been embedded in the sections above, as relevant to the area of programme.

Internal and External Media

WEBSITE

- [Regional] [ECA Region COVID-19 webpage – Tips for parenting during the COVID-19 outbreak... Tips for communicators to address stigma during the COVID-19 outbreak... Key messages for general population during the COVID-19 outbreak... Key messages for young people and adolescents during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- [Regional] [COVID-19 and children with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia](#) – New webpage, with links to:
 - [“Inclusive corner” of website in Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)
 - [Video message](#) by youth advocate Maria Alexandrova from [Bulgaria](#)
 - [A Letter from Quarantine: Children with disabilities, always isolated, deserve better](#) - by youth advocate Rijad Mehmeti from [Kosovo**](#)
 - [Video](#) advising parents with hearing impairments on how to their children about COVID-19 in [Bulgaria](#)
 - Dedicated [webpage](#) providing guidance for parents of children with autism on creating daily routines during the pandemic in [Serbia](#)
- [Regional/global] [UNICEF appeals for \\$1.6 billion to meet growing needs of children impacted by COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina] [A Grandma's letter: Overcoming sadness and boredom](#)
- [Turkey] [Photo essay: Helping Children with Psycho-social Support Needs Amid COVID-19 Confinement](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan] [Lights, camera, action! Dedicated teachers bring remote learning closer to every child in Kyrgyzstan](#)
- [North Macedonia] [Young innovators are joining the global #GenU Youth Challenge with #DigitalInclusion solutions](#)
- [Romania] [It's in the mail: UNICEF partners with the Romanian Post to inform the most vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Serbia/RO's "Our Voices" youth blogs series] [Young people in Serbia keep the community's morale high](#)
- [Regional] [Photo essay on delivery of vital supplies to fight COVID-19 across the Region](#)
- [Regional] [With financial support from the European Union UNICEF launches the 'RM Child-Health' project to strengthen vulnerable refugee and migrant children's health](#)
- [Regional] [Deinstitutionalization for children with disabilities – new technical guidance for UNICEF's engagement in national reform](#)

WEBSITE (Russian)

- [Kosovo**/Regional "Our Voices" youth blogs series] [A Letter from Quarantine: Children with disabilities, always isolated, deserve better](#) (by youth advocate Rijad Mehmeti)
- [Regional] [Photo essay on delivery of vital supplies to fight COVID-19 across the Region](#)

TWITTER

- [Regional] [Link to updated COVID-19 HAC](#)
- [Global/regional] [Link to video messages by UNICEF Executive Director and European Commissioner for Home Affairs, on #ChildrenUprooted](#)
- [Regional] [Link to new guidelines for school reopenings](#)
- [Regional] [FranceInfo interview with Deputy RD on COVID-19 impact on refugee & migrant children in Europe](#)
- [Italy, Regional] [Five days a week, outreach worker Abdoul Bassite visits informal settlements outside Rome to provide vital health services to the most vulnerable](#)
- [Regional] [Protecting children & young people with disabilities from the pandemic](#)

- [Regional] [Link to new ECARO webpage on COVID & children living with disabilities](#)
- [Regional] [Collaborating with @EU Health on better access by refugee & migrant children to primary healthcare, psychosocial support, violence prevention/response services](#)
- [Regional] [Link to Framework for Reopening Schools](#)
- [Regiona, RT] [Every Europe Day weekend, the #EUTeam in Geneva runs the Geneva Marathon in support of UNICEF](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan] [Video-lessons for pre-school and school-age children reached 1.2 million](#)
- [Kosovo**] [Resumption of immunization for babies, after two months suspension](#)
- [Ukraine] [Mother's Day message](#)
- [Turkey] [Delivery of psychosocial support kits to 50,000 Turkish and refugee families](#)
- [Bulgaria] ["I have been trying to learn a new language, explore the arts and philosophy," youth advocate Maria Alexandrova inspires](#)
- [Georgia, RT] [Niko, age 10, on learning from home](#)
- [Kosovo**] ["If you find it hard to stay in quarantine, imagine how all my friends living with disabilities feel," youth advocate Rijad, age 14](#)
- [North Macedonia, RT] [Celebrating the young innovators joining the global #GenU Youth Challenge with their #digitalinclusion solutions](#)
- [Serbia, RT] [UNICEF delivers respirators for healthcare institutions](#)
- [Serbia] [Milos explains how young people keep the community's morale high during the pandemic](#)
- [Ukraine, RT] [Partnering with private sector to procure medical, protective & hygiene supplies for hospitals in the east](#)
- [Global, RT] [Young migrants & refugees in Italy coping with the pandemic through photography](#)

FACEBOOK (Russian)

- [Kosovo**] [Youth blog from Kosovo*](#)
- [Tajikistan] [How to protect yourself from COVID-19](#)
- [Regional] First in series of [social media cards](#) to promote activities parents can do with young children during lockdown
- [Regional] [#VaccinesWork - trust for health workers](#)
- [Regiona] [How teenagers can protect their mental health](#)

INSTAGRAM (Russian)

- [Greta's announcement supporting UNICEF](#)
- [Youth blog from Kosovo**](#)
- [Immunization hero video](#)
- [Tips for children's online safety](#)
- [Education tips for parents IGTV](#)
- COVID-19 prevention messaging, eastern Ukraine focus: [post](#), [post](#), [post](#), [post](#), [post](#)

Next Sitrep: 29 May 2020

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Annex I: Summary of Selected Regional Programme Results (as of 14 May 2020)⁴

Areas of Response	2020 Target ⁵	Total UNICEF results	% Target achieved
Risk Communication and Community Engagement			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	108,070,000	86,854,613	80%
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	6,118,000	3,641,541	60%
Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH Services			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,932,620	269,408	9%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)	184,750	61,191	33%
Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care in UNICEF supported facilities.	698,000	26,167	4%
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding	1,224,476	414,089	34%
Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	38,683,325	21,422,466	55%
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	4,635	161	3%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	764,850	102,724	13%
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	5,641	1,044	19%
Access to Social Protection Services			
Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19	188,500	11,500	6%
Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	131,900	3,647	3%

⁴ This table presents the Regional programme indicators which have been selected from the global Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) framework. The reported programme results have been extracted from the global HPM dashboard for the period ending 14 May. Sitreps targets and indicators may be subject to some revision to better report on regional dynamics and nuances in the context of COVID-19 response.

⁵ Following the recent revision of the global COVID-19 HAC appeal, and in line with the related increase in scale and scope of activities, related targets are being reviewed and revised upward compared to the previous sitrep and are subject to further modifications.