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30 May – 12 June

### Highlights

UNICEF works for children and adolescents in 22 countries and territories<sup>1</sup> in Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR) and is also present in Italy, supporting refugee and migrant populations. During this reporting period:

- Many countries that had taken steps to relax containment and gradually regularise social and economic life have experienced a surge in new COVID-19 cases (e.g., Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kosovo\*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan). This has been attributed to different causes, for example, overstretched response capacity of health systems, lack of PPE, and increased non-compliance among the general population with prevention protocols. Country responses have varied, from re-imposed curfews and citizen policing, to the re-framing of COVID-19 prevention messages.
- On 10 June, the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) approved a draft comprehensive action plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) among its member states, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. The plan provides for mutual exchange of information from surveillance bodies, joint research and recommendations for developing coordinated responses to outbreaks of infectious diseases in accordance with international health regulations.
- Turkmenistan has, to date, no laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs unveiled the country's Preparedness and Response Plan on Acute Infectious Disease (COVID-19), and information on developing a socioeconomic response plan, which includes an upcoming WHO technical mission.
- Since the previous reporting period, there has been a steady decline in the number of children (40.1 million to 37.5 million) affected by school closures in Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, and Uzbekistan. Despite this, needs to strengthen remote learning, particularly for children most vulnerable, remain, and UNICEF is supporting over 21.8 million children in preschools and schools to continue education through distance learning using internet-based technology, TV broadcasts and social media channels. Countries are also taking action or making plans for safe return of students to classrooms. UNICEF at regional level has provided technical support to countries, while in country UNICEF is working with WHO and other expert agencies to provide national-level guidance, establish operational

## UNICEF Europe & Central Asia Region (ECAR)

### Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### Situation Report No. 9

unicef   
for every child



**635,259 COVID-19 cases** in 22 countries\*\*



**45,165 COVID-19 deaths** in 22 countries\*\*



**37.5 million children** affected by COVID-19-related and learning centre closure



**\$133 million funding** requirement for ECAR response

<sup>1</sup> 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) 12 June 2020. Figures do not include Italy.

Photo: Education materials distributed by UNICEF and the Red Cross to vulnerable children in Montenegro are supporting the country in making the protection and education of every child a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic.

standards, and address supply and other gaps.

- UNICEF programmes across the region are reaching over 192 million people with COVID-19 prevention and safety messages through online platforms and social media. Some 283,000 households have been reached with social assistance measures supported through government-led social protection programmes.
- 1 June is celebrated by many countries in the region as World Children’s Day, and the impact of COVID-19 on children’s lives emerged as an overarching theme in advocacy events. Kosovo\* focused on ensuring visibility of children with disabilities in achieving the SDGs and their right to education, protection and care, in pandemic and other crises. Kyrgyzstan hosted a Children’s Summit, chaired by the Vice Prime Minister which gave children and adolescents a platform to describe the challenges they faced during the lockdown. In Ukraine, UNICEF’s Country Representative and the President met to address child poverty and child protection – key vulnerabilities that will have a longer-term impact resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- The impact of COVID-19 on children was at the centre of other high-profile advocacy events. In Bulgaria, UNICEF met with the 23 member states of the European Network for Ombudsperson (ENOC) for children to exchange challenges and from the different countries. Follow up action at country level was agreed in several areas, including distance learning, domestic violence and cyber bullying, mental health, economic hardship and extreme poverty, limited or no outside play, communication rights between children and divorced parents, and refugee children. In Montenegro, the Ombudsperson Institution organized an event on the prohibition of all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in line with the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention and launched a new brochure which aims to empower children, from an early age, to recognize sexual abuse.

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

Under UNICEF’s revised Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the COVID-19 response, UNICEF ECAR is now appealing for approximately **\$133 million**<sup>2</sup>. Against this appeal target, ECAR has received over **\$24.1 million**<sup>3</sup> or **18.1%** of required funding.



### Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Following the gradual easing of lockdown and quarantine restrictions across ECAR, several countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kosovo\*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan) recorded an increase of new COVID-

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> List of donors to HAC appeal available on request. The impact resulting from these new and reprogrammed contributions and other support have been gratefully received and acknowledged by UNICEF and will be documented in progress and annual donor reports, according to schedules agreed with individual donors. UNICEF is also grateful for support enabling the ongoing response to refugee and migrants in Europe, including during the COVID pandemic. On behalf of these vulnerable children and families, UNICEF acknowledges: the European Union, the Government of the United States (BPRM), CEB, Education Cannot Wait, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF National Committees (France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United States).

19 infections. In Albania, the steady increase was highest in Tirana (76% of cases). In Armenia, the overburdened health system, unable to provide medical services to everyone in need, is considered an attributing factor. The Prime Minister called for strict adherence to re-imposed safety measures, with monitoring teams created to respond to those in violation. In response to the daily rise of new cases in Azerbaijan, as many as 379 by 7 June, a full weekend (6 to 7 June) curfew was re-imposed in Baku (49% of cases) and four other regions. In North Macedonia, new cases reached triple digits, and a police curfew (4 to 8 June) was also re-imposed in cities with the highest number of infections. Belarus continued to record high numbers of new infections (1,762 in one day in the reporting period) perhaps due to limited prevention policies and messages (distancing, masks) and insufficient access to PPE supply. Kosovo's\* slight increase in new cases drew attention to the population's low compliance with prevention measures. With economic activity resuming, there has also been an increase in contact cases. In Moldova, the number of new cases continued to grow, with a record high number of new cases – 406 on 12 June. In Tajikistan, mass disinfection of streets and public spaces is ongoing. A door-to-door campaign is advising people to self-isolate if they can. Safe behaviour (e.g., masks, distancing) were reinforced by the Ministry of Health (MoH), with warnings of a potential second wave.

Among countries that had successfully flattened the COVID-19 epidemiological curve, Croatia has registered three new cases during the reporting period. However, the country does not intend to declare an end to the pandemic and is cautious about the opening of the tourist season. In Greece, of 3,049 confirmed cases, 209 are from the refugee/migrant community, and while safety protocols were eased countrywide, restrictions were extended in three previously quarantined sites and in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Aegean islands until 21 June. Montenegro remains free from active cases, however, as restrictions relax, fewer people are following safety recommendations.

Across ECAR, barriers to safe return to school include lack of hygiene supplies and other equipment (digital thermometers, risk communication materials), and insufficient orientation to staff and parents to implement safety measures. As well, limits to classroom space sometimes mean only smaller numbers of returning students can be accommodated, as is the case in Open Accommodation Sites in Greece. UNICEF, WHO and other agencies are providing technical support to governments in establishing national guidance (Albania, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine) for re-opening preschools and school and establishing operational standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A general observation that people tend to become more casual about practicing safe behavior when confinement and quarantine restrictions are relaxed, was validated by UNICEF surveys measuring public risk perception and awareness (e.g., in Azerbaijan and Montenegro). Consequently, some countries are re-framing Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) messaging. For example, in Azerbaijan, resurgence of new infections has prompted the UN and the Government's Operational Task Force to consider refocusing on RCCE to emphasize the potentially serious social and economic consequences of non-compliance and the responsibility of business owners. Montenegro is stepping up its COVID-19 prevention social media campaign aimed at young people, deploying a UNICEF National Goodwill Ambassador to amplify messages on safe behavior. In a recent survey most (96%) of respondents believe they are well informed about COVID-19, but only a third said they would accept a COVID-19 vaccine if one became available. Moldova has launched a campaign [#AiGrijă](#) ("Take care") and, together with WHO, UNICEF supported production of materials focusing on behavior, particularly in public spaces after lifting of strict lockdown measures. In Tajikistan, UNICEF presented RCCE monitoring tools for Government approval, and these will be used to collect information on knowledge, attitude, practices (KAP) of population/communities in all districts.

## Partnerships & Coordination

UNICEF is closely coordinating with government, civil society and private sector partners to support national efforts to address the COVID-19 outbreak in ECAR. UNICEF's response plan is aligned with WHO's global Strategic Response Plan (SRP), the UN's Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and UNICEF's COVID-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. New partnerships and strengthened coordination were evident across ECAR during the reporting period. Highlights include:

- In Armenia, UNICEF as sector coordination lead for social protection continued close communication with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and UN, development and humanitarian civil society partners on various aspects of the COVID-19 response in social protection. Draft joint messages on protecting social spending in the county's medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) and budget were developed and discussed with group members. In response to MoLSA's appeal for supplies for residential care facilities, UNICEF coordinated support actions offered by various partners, including, UNFPA, UNDP and ADB.
- In Azerbaijan, within the UN Country Team (UNCT) initiative to undertake a socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, UNICEF is leading in education, social protection and inclusion, coordinating inputs from UN agencies including UNFPA, ILO, UNHCR, IOM and OHCHR. Initial methodology development and basic data collection are in progress. The UNCT is awaiting response from Government on the undertaking of the assessment.

- In Belarus, UNICEF as a co-chair of UN Task Force on COVID-19 socio-economic response presented results of its online COVID survey. UNHCR requested to participate to monitor the situation of vulnerable families under their mandate.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF is participating in UN Country Team's Pillar 5 – Social Cohesion, building on the UN Joint Project Dialogue for the Future (DFF), along with UNESCO and UNDP. Other participating agencies include UNFPA, ILO, IOM, UN Women, and UNV.
- In Georgia, UNICEF signed an addition to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Parliament of Georgia and the State Care Agency, adding to the COVID-19 hotline "111" assistance to cover issues related to adolescents and young people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, with a focus on substance abuse and gambling.
- In Montenegro, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF co-hosted an education sector coordination meeting to bring together a wide range of bilateral and international partners to ensure a targeted, inclusive response children's needs in education and ensure a smooth transition from recovery to normalization.

## UNICEF's ECA Region Preparedness and Response Actions

**Supplies:** During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to deliver supplies across ECAR:

### Hygiene and education supplies

- In Albania, 2,000 hygiene kits were delivered to 400 creches and kindergartens, reaching 16,000 children in 10 regions.
- In Armenia, 32 pulse oximeters, 1,600 packs of wet wipes, 800 hand sanitisers were delivered to 11 residential care institutions.
- In Azerbaijan, 8,000 children's learning packages were delivered to families in 11 districts.
- In Bulgaria, in cooperation with local authorities and the National Association of Roma Health Mediators and Amalipe, hygiene kits were provided to 1,077 families, including 2,707 children.
- In Georgia, with the Deputy State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues, and local authorities, essential hygiene and food supplies were delivered to 200 vulnerable families in the villages of Tselubani and Nikozi.
- In Greece, dignity kits were delivered to vulnerable children and families (9,288 individuals) in Lesvos and Samos RICs.
- In Kyrgyzstan, 800 pairs of sterile gloves were delivered to Batken provincial hospital.
- In Moldova, hygiene supplies (sanitiser, disinfectant) were distributed to all 1,300 primary health centres in rural areas.
- In Serbia, hygiene packs were distributed to 299 foster families and 527 Roma families, reaching 4,425 individuals. 151 Roma and 19 poor families with children under the age of 10 received family packages for play and learning.
- In Turkey, 2,850 hygiene kits were delivered to families, in partnership with Turkish Red Crescent.
- In Ukraine, a month's supply of bottled drinking water was delivered to five hospitals in Donetsk (GCA) for 670 medical staff and patients. Hand sanitisers were distributed to 19 hospitals in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Chernihiv oblasts, community-based social services professionals and vulnerable families (2,130 people) in 12 municipalities in Donetsk and Luhansk (GCA). Disinfectants were distributed to mothers with young children in penitentiaries.

### PPE and medical equipment

- In Armenia, PPE (gloves, gowns, coveralls, aprons, masks), thermometers were provided to MoH for medical personnel.
- In Kyrgyzstan, nasal prongs were delivered to Children's City Hospital #3 in Bishkek.
- In North Macedonia, seven ventilators were delivered to MoH. Contactless thermometers were delivered to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.
- In Romania, PPE was distributed to General Directions for Social Assistance and Child Protection for 24,500 professionals working in public residential institutions for children and adults with and without disabilities.
- In Serbia, 8 ventilators were distributed to five health institutions.
- In Tajikistan, 20 ventilators were distributed across the country, while distribution of 24.7 MT of PPE is underway.

- In Ukraine, two blood gas analysers were provided to Donetsk (GCA). 91 juveniles, 15 mothers with young children in penitentiary institutions, 60 personnel of those facilities and 30 Juvenile Police Officers from 10 regions received PPE.
- In Uzbekistan, PPE and hygiene supplies (hand sanitisers, disinfectant powder) were delivered to 14 regional Sanitary and Epidemiologic Wellbeing centres, reaching over 4,000 health workers (including vaccinators) at the primary level.

**Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services:** Across ECAR multilingual social media platforms (live sessions with experts, videos) and distribution of printed material (posters, leaflets), translated into ethnic minority languages, have ensured messages on good child nutrition (including breastfeeding), immunization, reach parents. UNICEF also facilitated access to vital information by other means, when face-to-face contact is limited. For example:

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF procured mobile phones for the Institute of Public Health (Republika Srpska) to establish a hotline on immunization and COVID-19 for parents. To reach refugee and migrant families in temporary reception centre (TRC) Ušivak and Salakovac, UNICEF with partners “Fenix” and World Vision is providing nutritional support, supportive care, education and counselling on breastfeeding and infant feeding for mothers in Mother Baby Corners.
- In Bulgaria, UNICEF supported provision of online counselling to families with young children in Shumen and Sliven districts and facilitated access to antenatal care for pregnant women without health insurance.
- In Georgia UNICEF launched a remote health service to ensure continued access to antenatal care to pregnant women in districts under strict quarantine, as well as in capital Tbilisi.
- In Italy, UNICEF partners reached refugee and migrant children and families outside formal reception sites with health screenings, pre-triage, referral activities; those in transit areas and informal settlements in Rome were reached by mobile teams. A hotline continued to provide psychological support.
- In Kosovo\*, UNICEF supported implementing partners to continue the Home Visiting programme to provide telephone counselling to pregnant women and parents on healthy pregnancy, nutrition, child development, immunization and psychosocial support in 22 municipalities.
- In Moldova, routine immunization and catch up in primary health centres started on 18 May. Antenatal care visits to family doctors and specialists also were re-launched.
- In Serbia, continuity of health care provided by Roma Health Mediators through telephone interventions has been secured through the partnership between the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and the Association of Health Mediators.
- In Ukraine, in collaboration with WHO and partners, UNICEF concluded the final version of “Action Plan of implementation of strategy to scale up laboratory capacity in response to COVID-19 emergency in Ukraine” which will be handed over to Government.
- In Uzbekistan, at immunization facilities, UNICEF is supporting MoH’s introduction of the second dose of the HPV vaccine starting on 1 June. HPV vaccine coverage rate has reached 80.7% as of 8 June.

Supporting health authorities and building capacity of health workers to enable them to continue the providing services in the context of COVID-19 include:

- In Belarus, UNICEF issued guidelines on early childhood intervention (ECI) service provision via teleworking were prepared and translated. With UNICEF support, webinars for health care providers on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of COVID-19 in adults and children were delivered to 132 specialists (clinical physicians, paediatricians, specialists on infection diseases) and made available via YouTube channels.
- In Kazakhstan, 900 representatives of local health departments and healthcare facilities participated in a meeting with the Board of the MoH where UNICEF advocated for development of home-visiting services, including involvement of home-visiting nurses in raising COVID-19 awareness among vulnerable families; preventing violence against children; and assessing risks of poverty.
- In Kosovo\*, UNICEF supported the Institute of Public Health and MoH in adopting guidelines for maintaining essential health services and community-based health care. 22 local health managers were trained on providing community-based health care in collaboration with MoH.
- In Kyrgyzstan guidance documents prepared by UNICEF and WHO on home visiting services and newborn care in the context of COVID-19 were approved by the expert Committee on Health of the MoH. The MoH approved the working

group on Infant and Young Child Feeding to revise existing guidelines and tools breastfeeding support.

- In Ukraine, two webinars were carried out for 345 healthcare professionals covering practices of healthcare facilities during COVID-19; quarantine relaxation on vaccination and managerial decisions in healthcare (COVID related).

**Infection, Protection and Control (IPC)/WASH Services:** An update on UNICEF support in IPC/WASH in readying schools for the return of students is discussed in the section “Access to Continuous Learning”. In addition:

- In Romania, 50 community nurses were trained on IPC, with the social workers with whom they form community teams.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF has been collaborating with the Development Coordination Council on availability of chlorine (there is currently shortage of chlorine and equipment to test level of chlorine in the water) and on finalizing a WASH Rapid Assessment which will help identify needs around WASH in the country in the context of the COVID-19.
- In Turkmenistan, UNICEF is working with the MoH and Medical Industry on adapting the video lessons on WHO IPC SOPs on COVID-19 response for frontline health workers.
- In Ukraine, the UNICEF supported e-vouchers programme targeting health care institutions in Eastern Ukraine was completed with 99.9% of the voucher amount redeemed. This support covers approximately three months need in hygiene and cleaning supplies for 66 health care institutions with 3,477 medical serving 101,749 patients monthly.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):** In ECAR, UNICEF leads or co-leads UN coordination on RCCE activities. New initiatives and products finalized during the reporting period include:

- In Armenia, UNICEF launched [digital activation and public advocacy around eco-efficiency](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In Azerbaijan, [book reading sessions](#), [new animated books](#) and a [COVID-19 safety series](#) were released, supporting parents with pre-school age children continue education in digital environment.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF signed an agreement with the national television outlet to support production and broadcasting of COVID-19 related information about the impact on health, education, social and child protection.
- In Moldova, UNICEF and WHO supported production of information materials for a campaign focusing on the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, under the slogan [#AiGrijă](#) (“Take care”) following relaxation of restrictions. Video spots have been placed on social media platforms, and posters and stickers will be placed in stores and public transportation.
- In Montenegro UNICEF RCCE messages in the “transition phase” focuses on young people, and safe behaviours (e.g. social distancing) on COVID-19, with support from a UNICEF National Goodwill Ambassador for amplification.
- In North Macedonia, as the school year wraps up for summer, UNICEF has launched a campaign [Thank you Teacher](#) in recognition of teachers’ efforts to facilitate online learning during COVID19.
- In Turkey, the UNICEF-supported Community Participation and Volunteerism course of Izmir University of Economics has concluded. Students developed and implemented social responsibility projects related to COVIDs-19 and children, including a webinar COVID-19 information series with experts and academics.
- In Uzbekistan, UNICEF launched a new initiative to improve coping skills of parents and children. Communication products on mental health, psychosocial wellbeing were developed with attention to use of sign language.

**Engaging Adolescents and Young People:** new developments and milestones reach in engaging young people included:

- In Azerbaijan, UNICEF’s NGO partner, Education Hub, organized a webinar on “[Effective partnership of a distant team in management of social projects](#)” with a focus on online management of social projects, reaching 1,341 people. Videos on hygiene and the [hip-hop challenge](#) (dance moves with handwashing steps) were produced and circulated in partnership with the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, reaching 35,000 young people via social network platforms.
- In Belarus, UNICEF launched the Telegram chat-bot “ask\_about\_COVID19” for peer-to-peer consultations on COVID-19.
- In Croatia, UNICEF organized an online skills-building workshop with adolescents, as a part of the employability skills-building programme on digital literacy, storytelling, communication skills, marketing. Participants shared concerns and questions on COVID-19 and with support of the Croatian Institute for Public Health, created “Hope” – a virtual assistant who answers questions about COVID-19 via Facebook.
- In Georgia, Parliament announced expansion of the UNICEF-supported COVID-19 hotline “111” to cover issues related

to adolescents and young people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. A [roundtable discussion](#) was held with the Speaker of Parliament, Chairperson of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, UNICEF and young people.

- In Kosovo\*, adaptation of skills-building programmes UPSHIFT, PODIUM, PONDER to digital platforms due to COVID-19, accelerated their formal accreditation by Ministry of Education, meaning these programmes, officially part of school curricula, will be accessible to more adolescents, young people, during the pandemic and well beyond.
- In Moldova, UNICEF's [UPSHIFT digital edition](#) will build social entrepreneurship skills in adolescents, young people.
- In Montenegro, UNICEF's partner, the Association of Scouts completed their [Adventure at home activities](#), involving almost 2,000 young people in skills building and other activities during the lockdown.
- In Romania, UNICEF organized an online press conference on Sustainable Development Goals in the context of COVID-19 with Government and the Children's Board. During the event "[Together for Sustainable Development – We are the Next Generation](#)" children presented views of over 3,000 adolescents who contributed to a U-Report survey on the SDGs.
- In Serbia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports joined an online volunteering initiative, announcing financial support and inviting their sports and NGO partners to participate.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF launched an online campaign #AloneTogether to raise COVID19 awareness among volunteers of the Committee of Youth and Sports.
- In Ukraine, a UNICEF-supported U-Report opinion poll revealed that one-fifth of respondents identified economic difficulties as their biggest challenge during the COVID-19 time.

**Access to Continuous Learning:** UNICEF-supported activities enabling children to access continuous education focused on efforts to ensure safe re-opening of schools. UNICEF at regional and country levels, is helping shape guidance around protocols to follow, and working alongside local authorities to identify gaps that need to be addressed as part of school-readiness. For example:

- In Albania, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministries of Education and Health to develop national guidance for re-opening of preschool institutions and establish operational standards to prevent spread of COVID-19. UNICEF supported local authorities with cleaning, disinfection supplies to support safe hygiene practices.
- In Armenia, UNICEF shared Regional Guidance for Preschool Opening, focused on safety measures, with Government and partners. UNICEF organized staff orientation to prepare for 15 reopening kindergartens, to be scaled up to 370 preschools in five regions.
- In Greece, to mitigate the impact of limited return to face-to-face learning, UNICEF is supporting continued delivery of homework support packages, production of podcasts, and other distance learning material.
- In Kazakhstan, UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO conducted a webinar on COVID-19 and the education sector in Central Asia focused on recommendations for the safe reopening of schools. Guidelines on safe reopening of schools prepared by UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank and WFP were presented.
- In Kosovo\*, UNICEF shared pre-school reopening guidance in two official languages and in close collaboration with Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, is defining support to pre-schools for safe return of children.
- In Moldova, UNICEF provided support to Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in planning school reopening, based on guidance for safe reopening of schools issued by UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and World Bank.
- In North Macedonia, UNICEF is supporting Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in assessing when and how to re-open kindergartens and supplying non-contact digital thermometers and risk communication material for kindergartens.
- In Romania, UNICEF translated related guidance and shared this with MoE and relevant counterparts, and organized workshops with preschool staff from Brasov and Bacau County to document challenges related to preschool opening and facilitate sharing on best practices. UNICEF is supporting re-opening of school in September, including provision of hygiene supplies to 51 schools.
- In Serbia, with WHO and the Institute of Public Health, UNICEF is preparing information for staff and parents (national guidelines, webinars, communication materials) to support reopening of schools and preschools in September.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), and development partners are working on guidelines for safe re-opening of preschools and general education institutions. During the reporting period, discussions focused

on supply planning and development of guidelines for teachers, students, and parents.

- In Turkey UNICEF is working closely with MoNE to identify priority areas of support for safe reopening of schools in September.
- In Ukraine, UNICEF MoE, and a well-known child psychologist developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials on re-opening of kindergartens, including guidance for educators and useful tips for parents to prepare a child to return to the classroom. UNICEF procured IPC supplies for 350,000 students returning to write final exams in over 1,600 testing centres countrywide.

**Access to Child Protection and Preventing Violence:** highlights of new or expanded initiatives on child protection, psychosocial support – especially for most vulnerable children and families, and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) include:

- In Armenia, UNICEF presented its assessment of civil society organizations (CSOs) providing mental and psycho-social support (MHPSS) services to the Social Protection and Psychosocial Support Coordination Group, giving an overview of CSOs providing MHPSS services to facilitate their coordination with Government, international organizations and donors.
- In Azerbaijan, to support children to adapt during and after COVID-19, UNICEF, National Mental Health Centre and NGO Reliable Future completed online training sessions for psychologists working in schools of Baku, Sumgayit and Lankaran.
- In Bulgaria, a legal analysis on the impact of emergency legislation related to the pandemic and on children's rights was completed. Lessons learned are expected to inform recommendations for post recovery actions and response planning in future crisis.
- In Croatia, UNICEF's NGO implementing partner, Women's Room, is analysing results of the questionnaire sent to the service providers that will inform a review and update of referral pathways for survivors of GBV.
- In Georgia, UNICEF shared guidelines on prevention of violence against children with religious leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church and further distributed them to priests in Tbilisi, Javakheti and Adjara, as well as to educational centres.
- In Kazakhstan, as a result of UNICEF's advocacy, monitoring visits by the National Preventive Mechanism under the Human Rights Ombudsman were carried out in medical social institutions for children with disabilities during quarantine, uncovering several cases of child abuse. Immediate action was taken and an inter-sectoral working group was established by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to develop recommendations for reforming these institutions.
- In Kosovo\*, UNICEF supported its partner HANDIKOS, to reach children with disabilities and their parents with physiotherapy and psychosocial treatment via the provision of learning materials and hygiene items.
- In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF initiated a set of rapid assessment to assess the evolution of the crisis and its impact on the most vulnerable children. Among these are an assessment of children released from institutions and supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development at the start of the pandemic. Another assessment, launched jointly with IOM, focuses on COVID-19 impact on children left behind by migration.
- In Montenegro, as part of a cooperation between UNICEF and the Red Cross, 110 Red Cross outreach workers and volunteers completed training by UNICEF on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, including prevention, risk mitigation and referrals for survivors. Nearly 70 Red Cross outreach workers and volunteers completed the first in a series of trainings on prevention of child abandonment and family separation, timely identification, and referral of families at risk.
- In Romania, UNICEF supported training of 100 social workers and community nurses coordinating local level interventions on community case management during COVID-19. 35 professionals including psychologists and staff working with the Centre for Legal Resources and Council for Institutionalized Youth, and staff from the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption, were trained on providing mental health and psychosocial support via telephone hotline.
- In Turkey, UNICEF supported 83 Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (MoFLSS) professionals to acquire necessary skills to provide psychological support to people experiencing stress due COVID-19 via a nationwide counselling hotline jointly supported by MoFLSS and UNICEF. The free hotline is operated by 529 psychologists and social workers.
- In Ukraine, UNICEF supported psycho-social teams operating in Luhansk and Donetsk Non-Government Controlled Area (NGCA) to continue providing consultations to children and families living along the contact line in the East via phone,

skype and other social media channels. 400 beneficiaries, including 222 children received psycho-social counselling, information on positive parenting and COVID-19 related sessions. 38 children without parental care were provided with essential protection services and psychosocial support.

- In Uzbekistan, in close cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Public Education, UNICEF produced a video to raise awareness of caregivers and parents on the issues of physical abuse. The video highlights the vulnerability of children during lockdown measures and provides advice to parents and service providers on what should be considered in planning interventions.

**Social Protection:** UNICEF continued to draw attention to the potential scale and intensity of the effects of economic disruption triggered across ECAR by the pandemic and support governments to develop and implement strategies to prevent socioeconomic devastation of the most vulnerable children and families. For example:

- In Albania, two municipalities – Durres and Korca – approved 1,200 households to benefit from the pilot Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT) programme, and distribution of cash has started. UNICEF on behalf of several UN agencies finalized the first draft of the United Nations Framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, namely Protecting People: Social protection and basic services.
- In Armenia, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a system for rapid response and needs assessment to cover people outside current support packages and employed in the informal sector, including through horizontal expansion of existing packages and development of new ones. A discussion was held with the National Institute of Labour and Social Research and World Bank on the adaptation of existing draft Labour and Social Protection Strategy in the context of COVID-19, considering the core diagnostic of social protection system and programmes.
- In Bulgaria, UNICEF updated the Review of Municipal responses to COVID-19 with a focus on social and economic measures, including 126 out of 265 municipalities between 16 March and 31 May 2020. The first round of the high-frequency monitoring survey with the World Bank has started and the first results are expected shortly.
- In Croatia, UNICEF and World Bank continued cooperation on data/information collection and delivering evidence-based recommendations to relevant authorities to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the most affected population, particularly children and families. The joint approach will be further developed, and survey instruments harmonized to ensure quality and complementary information critical to support institutions' social policy, child protection, and education programmes.
- In Georgia, UNICEF completed a Shock Responsive Social Protection Feasibility Assessment, and will present findings to the Prime Minister's Office. UNICEF is also completing the assessment of the potential impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups, with a on special focus children.
- In Moldova, UNICEF and World Bank conducted a micro-simulation on coverage of Ajutor Social, the national social assistance programme for vulnerable families with children. Based on results, the Government increased the budget for the programme by 40% and amended criteria for selecting beneficiaries so that adults with children and the most vulnerable individuals receive the allowance.
- In Romania, the [report](#) for Round 2 of the Rapid Assessment of the situation of children and families, with a focus on the most vulnerable, in the context of COVID-19 was finalized. This report is based on an online consultation conducted through U-Report, answered by 2,230 adolescents and young people, and interviews with 120 community workers, representatives of local and county authorities, civil society and staff in residential institutions from four counties.
- In Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population endorsed the Social Protection Preparedness and Response Plan to COVID-19, the structure and content of which was suggested by UNICEF in consultation with development partners.
- In Turkey, UNICEF and partners have ensured continuity of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CTE) Programme for Refugee Children during the ongoing school closure. During the reporting period, 465,231 children (232,125 boys, 233,106 girls) benefitted from the May CTE 2020 payment. The CTE call centre system, managed by UNICEF's partner, Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), offers services in Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi and Pashto.

**Data Collection Analysis and Research:** Examples have been embedded in above sections above, as relevant.

## Internal and External Media

### EXTERNAL

#### WEBSITE

- [RO] [ECA Region COVID-19 webpage](#) – including the [latest regional SitRep](#)
- [RO] [COVID-19 and children with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia](#)
- [Belarus] [Voice of Youth: Iryna Ponedelnik on daily steps to tackle climate change](#). Even small steps can contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 13.
- [Georgia] [Parenting during pandemic](#). During the pandemic, parents of children with disabilities have had to act as frontline workers. UNICEF is helping them.
- [Kosovo\*\*] [My mother, my heroine](#). In times of turmoil, a story of love, courage, hope and light.
- [Kyrgyzstan] [Struggles of children left behind by migration at the time of COVID -19](#). Stepping up efforts to protect some 250,000 children.
- [North Macedonia] [Socialization in the “New Normal”](#). Blog post by UNICEF Young Reporters Deni Dagalev, Klara Mitevska, and Veronika Gijovska.
- [Tajikistan] [Pandemic participation: adolescent volunteers in Tajikistan fight back against COVID-19](#). Youth in 12 districts work to protect their families and communities from COVID-19.

#### TWITTER

- [Albania, RT] [COVID-19 could result in a rise in poverty and therefore to an increase in child labour as households use every available means to survive](#)
- [Armenia] [“Our planet seems to be in a self-healing process.” Young climate advocate Vardan sees a glimpse of hope on this #WorldEnvironmentDay](#)
- [Belarus] [Climate activist Ira Ponedelnik, on #WorldEnvironmentDay, urges new ideas to combat climate change](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina] [Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina can now learn about viruses, diseases and the best hygiene practices via a new animation series produced with the help of UNICEF and @USAID](#)
- [Georgia] [@unicefgeorgia asked children around the country how they are coping with the new normal](#)
- [Georgia, RT] [13-year-old Kristi Makharadze on her personal experience during #COVID19 lockdown](#)
- [Georgia, RT] [Memorandum of Cooperation signed with EFA-Coalition for Education & International Education to create educational resources for students and teachers](#)
- [Kazakhstan, RT] [The best protection is to protect everyone. UNICEF & partners deliver prevention & awareness information to children’s hospitals in all regions of Kazakhstan](#)
- [Kazakhstan, RT] [UNICEF with support of Columbia University runs an online training of trainers on building competencies of the social service workforce in Kazakhstan to achieve a better outcome for children in highly vulnerable groups](#)
- [Kosovo\*\*] [Forget the capes & superhuman strengths. There are everyday heroes with powers big enough to change the lives of children & teach them to embrace the challenges in their way](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan] [@unicefkg is stepping up efforts to protect children left behind by migrating parents, including from the higher risk of violence](#)
- [North Macedonia] [UNICEF Young Reporter Dario shares his message on the need for all of us to take responsibility to protect ourselves, our families and our communities](#)
- [North Macedonia, RT] [#COVID has shown us how public health has become a shared responsibility. Especially for young people, that includes being responsible for our mental health. Here are some tips from UNICEF Young Reporters](#)
- [North Macedonia] [“We learn how to live every day.” Young reporters explain which lessons they will take into the future \(also posted by Voices of Youth\)](#)
- [Romania] [If you are going back to school for the coming exams, here are some useful tips during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Turkmenistan] [Young climate activist Kristina writes about the importance of collective action & engaging youth in the fight against climate change](#)
- [Ukraine, RT] [“#Children are our future, which we risk if we do not protect them properly,” President@ZelenskyyUa at meeting with @UNICEF UA Representative](#)
- [Ukraine] [We celebrate #ChildrensDay2020 #ForEveryChild](#)
- [Ukraine, RT] [Concept on #SafeSchools developed and memo signed with National Service for Education Quality](#)
- [Greece, RT] [As #COVID19 restrictions lift, @UNICEF Child & Family Support Hub “TAPUAT” gets ready to welcome back children & women living at #Moria RIC on Lesbos](#)

- [\[RO\] UNICEF operates the world's largest humanitarian warehouse, shipping vital supplies to communities facing #COVID19](#)
- [\[RO\] Access to vaccines was already a challenge for remote communities before #COVID19. Now, the pandemic is widening inequalities](#)
- [\[RO\] The Global Vaccine Summit is our moment to reimagine a healthier world for every child](#)
- [\[RO\] Belly-breathing with stuffed animals... a game to help children lower their stress levels](#)
- Latest in our social media cards series to promote activities parents can do with young children during lockdown (in addition to [Activities to reduce stress & anxiety](#), [Relaxing activity for children](#) and [This fun game helps develop children's self-control](#)).
- [\[RO\] Messages from children to parents on the #DayofParents and Children's Day](#)
- [\[RO\] UNICEF-supported workshops for children with disabilities and their parents help Ana and her non-verbal son Emanuel can understand each other better](#)
- [\[RO\] To protect every last child from measles, polio and diphtheria, we must work together](#)
- [\[RO/global, RT\] "The #COVID19 lockdown poses a big threat to children as many are unable to reach their social networks, teachers & various child protection-related support services" – Aaron Greenberg, ECARO CP Adviser, interviewed by Deutsche Welle](#)
- [\[RO\] UNICEF continues to connect young unaccompanied refugees & migrants to mentors in #Italy](#)
- [\[Global, RT\] Executive Director answers young people's questions on #COVID10 and our planet \(including from Dunja from Montenegro\)](#)

#### **WEBSITE (Russian)**

- [\[RO\] ECA Region COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [\[Armenia\] Maintaining eco-efficiency at home during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)  
And everyday eco-friendly tips: [water](#), [plastic](#), [energy](#), [air](#), [food](#), [paper](#)
- [\[Armenia\] Tips for a more eco-friendly household during the pandemic: energy saving](#)
- [\[Belarus\] Climate activist Irina - on daily steps to fight climate change](#)
- [\[Georgia\] How COVID-19 changes lives of young people](#)
- [\[Kyrgyzstan\] Struggles of children left behind by migration at the time of COVID-19](#)
- [\[Tajikistan\] Pandemic participation: adolescent volunteers in Tajikistan fight back against COVID-19](#)

#### **FACEBOOK (Russian)**

- [\[Armenia\] Eco-friendly tips: paper](#)
- [\[Belarus\] Domestic violence: impact on children and what to do](#)
- [\[Georgia\] How COVID-19 changes lives of children in Georgia](#)
- [\[Kyrgyzstan\] Children left behind by migration](#)
- [\[Romania\] Back to school tips](#)
- [\[Tajikistan\] Tips on parenting](#)
- [\[Tajikistan\] Volunteers in Tajikistan fight back against the pandemic](#)
- [\[Tajikistan\] UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Tajikistan](#)
- [\[RO\] Relaxing activity for children \(photo album\) and Relaxing activity for children \(yoga\)](#)
- [\[RO\] Reimagine campaign \(using text from global social media pack\)](#)
- [\[RO\] COVID-19 Information Hub](#)
- [\[RO\] Relaxing activity for children](#)
- [#WorldEnvironmentDay - tips for eco-friendly home \(energy\)](#)
- [Global Day of Parents](#)
- [The Global Vaccine Summit & this post](#)

#### **INSTAGRAM (Russian)**

- [Tajikistan young volunteers](#)
- [Relaxing activity for children, post 2](#)
- [Reimagine campaign](#)
- Eco-friendly tips: [plastic](#), [energy](#)
- [Children from Georgia and COVID-19](#)
- [Q&A with ED Fore video](#)
- [#WorldEnvironmentDay - tips for eco-friendly home \(energy\) and tips for eco-friendly home \(food\)](#)
- [The Global Vaccine Summit](#)
- [How COVID-19 changed lives of children in Georgia](#)

- [Global Day of Parents - video from Romania](#)
- [Relaxing activity for children](#)
- [UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Kosovo\\*\\*](#)
- [Number of children in poverty to soar](#)

#### INTERNAL

- [UNICEF Family Box helps kids learn through play during COVID-19 \(Serbia\)](#)
- [UNICEF Turkey Reimagines a new world with and for adolescents](#)
- [UNICEF Georgia colleagues come together at 'virtual' bar amid COVID-19](#)
- [120 wheelchairs, one call for children with disabilities \(Kosovo\\*\\*\)](#)

**Next Sitrep: 30 June 2020**

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#### Annex I: Summary of Selected Regional Programme Results (as of 10 June 2020)<sup>i</sup>

Areas of Response	2020 Target <sup>ii</sup>	Total UNICEF results	% Target achieved	Change in results 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	195,110,000 <sup>iii</sup>	171,763,339	88%	▲ 23,959,883
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE ACTIONS	6,547,000	5,242,153	80%	▲ 171,410
<b>Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH Services</b>				
Number of people reached with CRITICAL WASH SUPPLIES (INCLUDING HYGIENE ITEMS) AND SERVICES	3,006,020 <sup>iv</sup>	571,300	19%	▲ 225,764
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	122,436	82,607	67%	▲ 1,804
<b>Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services</b>				
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 through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities.	3,632,140 <sup>v</sup>	839,832	23%	▲ 56,157
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with MESSAGES ON BREASTFEEDING in the context of COVID-19	1,249,050	1,432,420 <sup>vi</sup>	115%	▲ 451,369
<b>Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services</b>				
Number of children supported with DISTANCE/HOME-BASED LEARNING	38,651,096 <sup>vii</sup>	21,877,640	57%	▲ 529,372

Areas of Response	2020 Target <sup>ii</sup>	Total UNICEF results	% Target achieved	Change in results from last Sitrep
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate ALTERNATIVE CARE ARRANGEMENTS.	30,009 <sup>viii</sup>	12,701	42%	▲ 2,392
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT.	1,859,617 <sup>ix</sup>	1,045,505	56%	▲ 60,747
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed TRAINING ON GBV RISK MITIGATION & REFERRALS FOR SURVIVORS	5,597	1,505	27%	▲ 220
<b>Access to Social Protection Services</b>				
Number of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19	39,500	617	2%	▲ 100
Number of households benefitting from new or additional SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	283,090	275,187	97%	▲ 155,980

<sup>i</sup> This table presents programme indicators selected from the global Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) framework. Reported programme results have been extracted from the global HPM dashboard for the period ending 10 June. Additional Regional indicators to better report on the regional dynamics and nuances in the context of COVID-19 response are being considered.

<sup>ii</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, some targets have been revised to account for the evolving programme priorities and methodologies applied for calculating indicator targets. Technical conversations continue to further clarify methodologies.

<sup>iii</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been a marked increase in the target and result values of this indicator due to the changes applied to the definition and scope of the indicator. They were previously 170,980,000 and 147,803,456, respectively.

<sup>iv</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been a marked increase in the target value of this indicator due to the changes applied to the definition and scope of the indicator. It was previously indicated at 2,926,020.

<sup>v</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been an increase in the target value of this indicator due to changes applied to the definition and scope of the indicator. It was previously 3,427,140.

<sup>vi</sup> The ongoing revision to the calculation methodology has meant that the reported results have increased in some countries especially those who are counting broader coverage through social media and online platforms. Technical conversations are ongoing to ensure proper application of appropriate methodologies.

<sup>vii</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been an increase in the target value of this indicator due to an error in data entry in the previous report. It was previously quoted at 33,649,226.

<sup>viii</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been a marked increase in the target value of this indicator due to the changes applied to the definition and scope of the indicator. It was previously quoted at 18,568.

<sup>ix</sup> In comparison to the previous reporting period, there has been an increase in the target value of this indicator due to the changes applied to the definition and scope of the indicator. It was previously quoted at 1,810,350.