



UNICEF Ethiopia/2020/Tewodros Tedesse

Reporting Period: 23 – 29 May 2020

## Highlights

- The separation of children from their families and caregivers due to COVID-19 remains a major concern. To date, UNICEF has supported 1,130 unaccompanied or separated children affected by the COVID-19 outbreak to be reunified with their parents or caregivers, or to be placed in appropriate alternative care.
- With support from UNICEF and other partners, distance learning programmes are currently reaching 4.9 million school children (47% girls) across Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Harari and the following regions: Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's region (SNNP), Somali and Tigray.
- Persons with disabilities are more likely to be impacted by COVID-19 and less able to access information or implement the recommended hygiene measures to reduce the risk of contracting the virus. For this reason, UNICEF has developed a [Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19](#) policy brief. This week, UNICEF supported the Ethiopian Institute of the Ombudsman (EIO) to reach 200 children with hearing, visual or developmental disabilities and their families in Addis Ababa with hygiene and food items.

## Epidemiological Overview<sup>1</sup>

As of 29 May, Ethiopia had confirmed 968 cases, an increase of 147 per cent (587 cases) since May 21. So far, cases have been reported in three cities - Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Harari - and seven regions - Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali, SNNP, and Tigray. Some 197 people have recovered, and eight deaths recorded.

Testing capacity continues to expand; laboratory tests have been carried out on 101,581 samples (lately close to 5,000 tests a day). As of 29 May, 1,291 people were under the mandatory 14-day quarantine (of which 920 were international travellers and 371 returnees). Some 9,018 people have been discharged from quarantine.

## Funding Overview

UNICEF Ethiopia had planned its initial response needs at **US\$28 million that includes US\$6 million for 300,000 refugees for three months** to support the government in health (largely procurement of essential supplies, including

<sup>1</sup> All data from EPHI daily sitreps No. 120-127, Minister of Health updates @lia\_tadesse, WHO and Government of Ethiopia statements. See also <https://www.covid19.et/covid-19/>, <https://ethiocovid19.info/> and <https://covid-19.epseth.com/country-region/Addis-Ababa/language/en>

## ETHIOPIA

### Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### Situation Report No. 11

23 - 29 May 2020

unicef   
for every child

## Situation in Numbers



**968 confirmed cases**



**4 in critical condition**

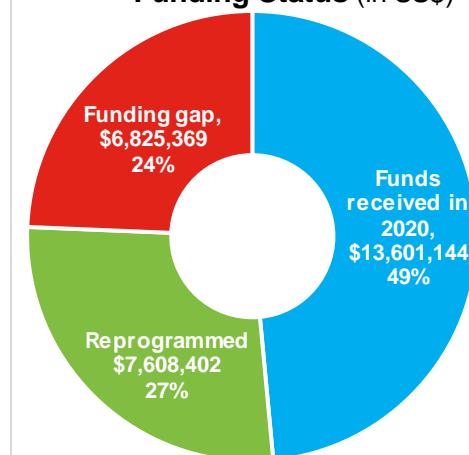


**8 deaths**



**197 recoveries**

### Funding Status (in US\$)



protective equipment and essential drugs but also support to the primary health care system), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), access to water, basic sanitation and hygiene and secondary impacts across sectors such as education (remote learning and preparations for a future reopening of schools), nutrition (prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition) and child protection (case management, psychosocial support and interim care/family tracing and reunifications).

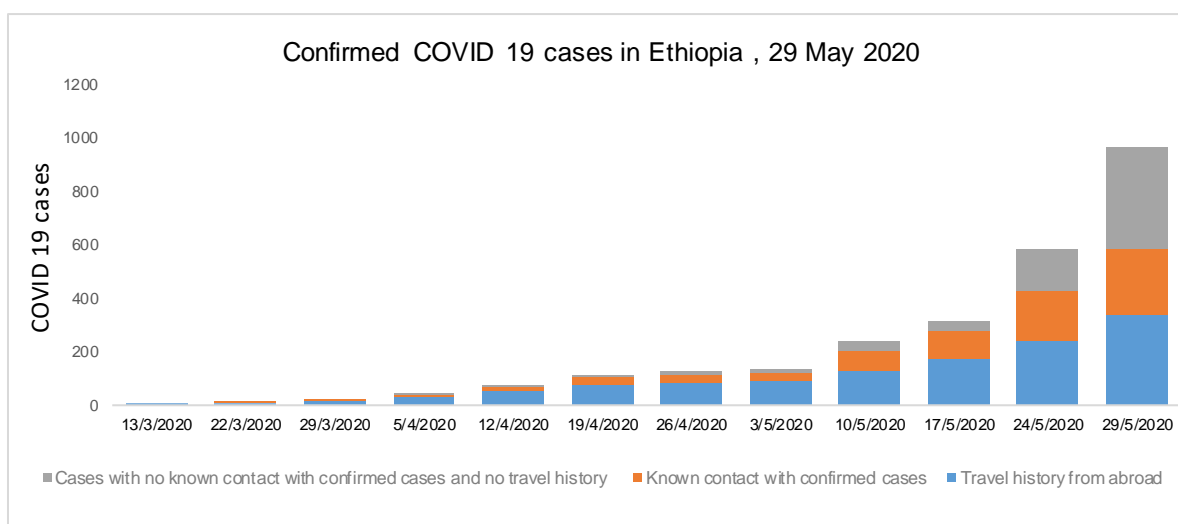
UNICEF’s current response plan, covering this period until August 2020, has a 24 per cent funding gap. The Plan is currently being updated considering expected needs and will expand the relevant actions and budgets until the end of December 2020.

## Situation Overview

### Confirmed cases double, in one week with an increase in community transmission reported

With 137 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in one day on 29 May, the total number of cases increased to 968. This new total is more than double the number of confirmed cases on 22 May, indicating an acceleration in the rate of transmission.

Notably, of the 137 cases reported in the Ethiopian Public Health Institute update on 29 May, 109 had no travel history and no known contacts with confirmed cases, indicating that the reported number of cases is likely to be the result of community transmission. The graph below illustrates the cumulative number of cases since mid-March and the weekly reported number of cases, disaggregated by cases with no known contact with confirmed cases and no travel history; cases with known contact with confirmed cases; and cases with travel history from abroad. As of 29 May, the cumulative cases resulting from no known contact with confirmed cases and no travel history is vastly outweighing other forms of reporting.



## Preparedness and response actions

### Health

UNICEF continues to support the national and sub-national Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) coordination platforms for the COVID-19 response. UNICEF has also supported the revision of the national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategy with WHO to provide technical expertise to inform the process. Existing evidence suggests a low risk perception within the community of COVID-19, with only 25 per cent of those participating in a recent survey believing that they had a high or very high risk of catching COVID-19<sup>2</sup>. To address these misconceptions or lack of information, the RCCE strategy will engage in the collection and sharing of testimonies, real-life experiences, and stories of infected people who overcame the disease.

In the Tigray Region, UNICEF specialists joined the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in a three-week assessment of essential health service provision. UNICEF also provided two rental vehicles for the assessment. The Tigray RHB is currently developing a six-month essential services action plan to address the effects of COVID-19. UNICEF provided technical assistance in the development of this plan.

The continuation of routine primary healthcare services during the COVID-19 outbreak remains challenging. For example, a measles vaccination campaign that was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak will commence shortly.

<sup>2</sup> Rapid COVID-19 Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) Survey, Ethiopia. FMOH, Ohio State University, RESOLVE to Save Lives, March 2020.

However, a lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE) may impact the campaign's implementation. There is a plan to stagger the implementation region by region in order to ensure adequate access to PPE for the safety of health care workers.

## Communication for Development

This week, UNICEF engaged 176,837 people with communication for development (C4D) activities, bringing the cumulative total to 2,313,438. Interpersonal communication, led by health extension workers, was conducted during surveillance activities across the regions. In partnership with the International Rescue Committee, COVID-19 preventive messages were disseminated in refugee camps and host communities in the Somali Region. Interpersonal communication through women-to-women and men's groups and mini media installed in the camps was used to reach the communities.

## WASH

To date, 1.74 million people out of an initial target of 1.58 million have been reached with critical WASH supplies including hygiene items (soap, hand washing basins and hand sanitizer). With 41 per cent of households having no handwashing facility on their premises and 51 per cent having a handwashing facility but no soap and water<sup>3</sup>, the provision of hygiene supplies is essential to prevent COVID-19. UNICEF distributed 1,117,000 million aqua tabs for 124,111 households (620,0555 people), securing their access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene for three months.

UNICEF provided essential WASH NFIs (soap, buckets, handwashing containers with taps and disinfection/cleaning kit services) to 782 returnee migrants in the Haramaya University and Oda Bultum University quarantine centres in East and West Haraghe, Oromia Region. This support complements WASH distributions to nine other quarantine sites in Addis Ababa which are hosting returnee migrants. There, over 5,000 people have been provided with access to hand hygiene materials including relevant COVID-19 information.

In the Tigray Region, UNICEF financial support is ensuring water trucking operations continue in six *woredas* experiencing critical water shortages; six water trucks are serving approximately 34,000 people. While access to water is always an essential service, it is especially important during COVID-19 to enable people to practice adequate hygiene such as handwashing.

An estimated 30,000 refugees in two camps in Itang, Gambella Region, have had improved access to safe water over the last two months as a result of water trucking by UNICEF. UNICEF also provided water storage tanks and chlorine for water disinfection to 4,500 refugees in the three refugee camps of Awbarre, Schara and Kebribeyah in the Somali Region.

## Child Protection

This week, UNICEF's response continued to focus on ensuring the functioning of the social service workforce for child protection across all the regions, with many priority actions taken to provide case management services to child migrant returnees. For example, with UNICEF's financial and technical support, in Amhara, family tracing for reunification is underway for 23 children (10 girls) who returned from Sudan and who were quarantined in four isolation centres in Metema. In Tigray, 18 boys who were returnee migrants from Saudi Arabia and Djibouti were reunified with their families; and 119 unaccompanied and separated children (31 girls) were registered in Dawanle quarantine centre to be reunified with their families.

In Benishangul-Gumuz, 102 children (29 girls) who had been working and living on the street in Assosa town were identified by the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BOLSA) and linked with community care coalitions (CCCs) for direct food support and temporary placement with foster families until permanent placement was found. UNICEF covered the cost of social workers identifying and assessing the children and linking them to the CCCs.

In SNNP, key mental health and psychosocial support messages on COVID-19 and CP-GBV were disseminated to unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable children as well as caregivers of children in Gedeo Zone. A total of 460 children (183 girls) and 367 caregivers (155 females) were reached with messages on symptoms and prevention of COVID-19, referral pathways, and the importance of timely reporting of cases to service facilities. UNICEF resources and guidelines were used for the messaging.

In the Somali Region, UNICEF supported the regional BOWCY to reach 827 parents (386 females) with messages on COVID-19 and child protection. The messages included protection of unaccompanied and separated children and prevention of violence against children, including gender-based violence in sites for internally displaced people.

A lack of PPE for the social workforce is impending service delivery.

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<sup>3</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene

## Education

With support from UNICEF and other partners, distance learning programmes are currently reaching 4.9 million school children (47% girls) across REBs in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Harari and the following regions: Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's region (SNNP), Somali and Tigray.

To engage its 80,000 Telegram subscribers (Telegram is a mobile phone messaging application), the Addis Ababa Education Bureau, with UNICEF support, created a shared platform for students to exchange knowledge and learning tips with each other. The Bureau uploaded model exam papers for grades 8 and 12 so that national exam candidates could prepare for upcoming national exams. The Bureau rewarded 41 students who provided answers to questions through SMS, in a ceremony to raise awareness about distance education.

The Oromia REB, in partnership with UNICEF and Imagine One-Day, developed education audio content which will also benefit IDP children. IDP sites (such as Berak and Guji) where radio transmission may not reach will receive solar-powered radios and content uploaded onto an audio drive so that children can listen off-line. The REB is undertaking community awareness campaigns so that children and families are aware of the programming across the different learning platforms.

Following a broadcasting service contract signed by the Somali REB with Radio Fana, broadcasting of radio education programs for grades 1 to 6 is starting this week focusing on five core subjects. The broadcasting will be made for four hours every day for the next three months.

In Tigray, FM radio education programmes are also benefiting an estimated 653 refugee children in upper primary and secondary education level (19 per cent of the total refugee student population). This number will increase with the planned distribution of solar-powered radios. However, the decision by the Tigray regional government to use refugee schools as COVID-19 quarantine centres may negatively impact planning for school re-opening.

As, Ethiopia's Ministry of Education begins to consider reopening of schools, alternative quarantine sites may need to be identified and the schools deep-cleaned. A complementary communications initiative may also need to be considered to dispel myths or fears of COVID-19 transmission for students returning to the schools.

## Nutrition

As part of the COVID-19 response, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to deliver supplies for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) to health posts, health centers and hospitals.

UNICEF supported orientation activities for 339 health workers and health extension workers in Oromia, Gambella, SNNP, Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz for the safe provision and management of SAM in the context of COVID-19.

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to develop an infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) implementation guideline, in collaboration with sector partners. This guideline will be vital to the promotion and protection of breastfeeding during the COVID-19.

## Social Protection

With support from UNICEF, the Ethiopian Institute of the Ombudsman (EIO) was able to provide hygiene items, including hand sanitizers and soap, with a food package, to 200 children with hearing and visual disabilities and their families in Addis Ababa.

In Afar, UNICEF reached more than 37,000 Productive Safety Net Programme beneficiaries with awareness-raising and messages to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Dubity and Mille *woredas*. In Dawa Chefa in Amhara, UNICEF supported 350 permanent direct support beneficiaries with hygiene items including soap and hand sanitizers.

## Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships

UNICEF's advocacy and communication efforts for the past week focused on [#MenstruationMatters](#) in the lead up to the [Menstrual Hygiene Day](#) by issuing a press release [PERIODS DON'T PAUSE FOR A PANDEMIC](#) and the hashtag [#AfricaDay](#) in an effort to help [Africa's most vulnerable children cope with the #COVID19 crisis](#).

In the past week, UNICEF reached 1,603,936 people (doubling last week's numbers) with 60,000 people engaging on Facebook and Twitter.

Some highlights from our digital platforms include a story on social workers titled "[As migrants return to Ethiopia, social workers show they're essential to COVID-19 response](#)", which was published on the UNICEF global site. Other outputs include:

- [A video featuring a well-known trauma psychologist giving parental tips during COVID-19](#)
- [Messages on #COVID19 prevention and protection were shared regularly.](#)
- A [short video](#) titled "Periods don't pause for pandemics! Together, we can and must ensure access to menstrual products for all" was posted on social media.

## Challenges

As other public health emergencies have shown in conflict-affected and fragile settings, public health emergencies are likely to increase social tensions, heighten group discrimination, incite unrest, and can lead to political instability, exacerbating conflict dynamics. This pandemic is likely to deepen suspicion and grievances based on existing patterns of exclusion, particularly around access to social services. Government containment and mitigation measures, restriction of movement, as well as disruption of social services – aggravated by the economic crisis affecting vulnerable households – may trigger fear and anger against frontline workers and authorities. There is also the risk that response measures will lead to regressions in the protection of child rights. These dynamics pose a duo risk to children: limiting the impact of the health responses; and potentially exposing communities to heightened violence and rights violations.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Guidance Note on Programming Approaches and Priorities to Prevent, Mitigate and Address Immediate Health and Socio-economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic on Children, 12 April 2020

## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

		UNICEF and IPs				Cluster/Sector Response	
		2020 Target	Total Results	2020 Refugee Target	Total Refugee Results	2020 Target	Total Results*
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement including social science</b>							
<b>Health</b>							
# of people trained/oriented to sensitize the community on COVID-19 prevention and control measures		5,000	4,167	1,000	-		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services <sup>5</sup>		30,000,000	16,861,935	700,000	-		
<b>C4D</b>							
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions <sup>6</sup>		2,500,000	2,313,438	300,000	3,243		
<b>Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships</b>							
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services, with a focus on social media engagement.		10,000,000	15,421,045 <sup>7</sup> 813,669 <sup>8</sup>		-		
<b>Infection Prevention and Control</b>							
<b>Health</b>							
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment		10,000	6,000	1,500	-		
<b>WASH</b>							
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services <sup>9</sup>		1,584,113	1,744,532	30,000	32,000		
Number of people with access to basic sanitation services		500,000	99,300	200,000	45,000		
Number of health care facilities with improved sanitation <sup>10</sup>		100	113	15	11		
<b>Prevent and address the secondary impact of the outbreak- minimize the human consequences of the outbreak</b>							
<b>Health</b>							
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control		550	0	50			
<b>Education</b>							
Number of pre-primary and primary schools equipped with handwashing and school cleaning supplies		439	0	59			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning <sup>11</sup>		6,737,975	4,900,000	29,542	653		
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols <sup>12</sup>		439	0	59			

<sup>5</sup> This one directional communication that includes the Ethio-telecom initiative that replaces ringtones with COVID-19 prevention messages and broadcast of COVID-19 prevention and control messages through local media channels (television, radio)

<sup>6</sup> These refer to two-dimensional communication activities

<sup>7</sup> Reach: On Facebook- 1,556,936 impressions; Twitter - 47,000 impressions; (21-28 May 2020)

<sup>8</sup> Engagement Facebook 59,782 engaged Twitter - 564 engagements (21-28 May 2020)

<sup>9</sup> Includes urban safety net beneficiaries with access to hygiene assets (soap, IEC materials) managed by the SPESI programme, funded by WASH

<sup>10</sup> This target was revised from 1000 to 100 on May 7, 2020

<sup>11</sup> Estimate based on % in each region

<sup>12</sup> This result will be postponed until, schools are reopened.

Child Protection							
# of social workers supported with materials for self-care and messages on lifesaving /behaviour change messages on COVID-19		375	199	125	21 <sup>13</sup>		
# of child protection cases reported and referred (by type of service)		1,300	1,602	250	17		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements		300	1,130	100			
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support		3,000	8,878 <sup>14</sup>	1,000			
Nutrition							
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months and 24-59 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.		39,000	49,100	2,340	501		
Number of number children 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment <sup>15</sup> .		39,000	12,534	2,340	166		
Social Policy Evidence and Social Inclusion (SPESI)							
Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 with focus on children and women developed (y/n)			0		-		
Number of social safety net beneficiaries reached with supplementary support to mitigate the effects of COVID <sup>16</sup>		584,113	584,113		-		

## Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Reprogrammed	\$	%
Nutrition	2,269,000	572,302	2,666,758	0	0%
Health	8,683,649	5,579,831	1,242,000	1,861,818	21%
Wash	8,435,500	3,104,807	686,957	4,643,736	55%
Child Protection	1,692,985	572,302	1,544,920	0	0%
Education	4,402,126	1,062,984	728,945	2,610,197	59%
C4D	2,181,656	1,508,120	0	673,536	31%
SPESI	340,000		738,822	0	0%
CAP	30,000		0	30,000	100%
Programme Effectiveness	0	1,200,797	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,034,916</b>	<b>13,601,144</b>	<b>7,608,402</b>	<b>6,825,369</b>	<b>24%</b>

<sup>13</sup> In this reporting period, two social workers in Gambella region were oriented with COVID 19 customized tools, provided with PPE and linked with the isolation center to provide PSS and other services to affected children.

<sup>14</sup> In this reporting period 1,654 children and parents/ (care givers 827 in Somali and 460 children 367 care givers in SNNPR) were reached through community MHPSS and prevention messages on COVID 19

<sup>15</sup> The results for the treatment of SAM children in the context of COVID-19, will be delayed, until June 2020 due to the reporting timetable.

<sup>16</sup> This result is captured under WASH but is represented here to illustrate the total number of social safety net beneficiaries reached. The support provided included access to hygiene assets (soap, IEC materials etc).