

Situation in Numbers



286 million
children in need of
humanitarian assistance



664 million
people in need

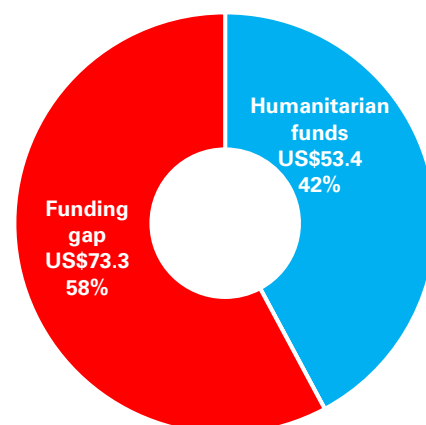


Reporting Period: 1- 31 May 2021

Highlights

- Month of May 2021 saw more than 3 cases per second and nearly 3 deaths per minute at the height of the surge.
- While the epidemic curve is on a downwards trend, the number of cases per day are still close to double of peak caseload in 2020.
- India is the third fastest country to administer more than 210 million vaccine doses, however, only 14.8 vaccine doses have been administered per 100 people so far and the country ranks 114th position on this indicator.
- UNICEF supported first 9 of 26 oxygen generating plans are being installed in in Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Tripura.
- UNICEF has continued to support augmenting medical oxygen and related products; over 4,500 oxygen concentrators, 512 High Flow Nasal Cannulas have been delivered to 10 States
- UNICEF continues to strengthen testing capacity: Supplied and installed 85 RT-PCR test machines in 73 laboratories spread across 25 States and Union Territories. 200 additional RT-PCR machines and 100 RNA extraction machines are also under procurement.
- UNICEF supported installation of cold-chain capacity that strengthen vaccine storage capability at national and all state level as well as in 523 districts through augmenting 1389 cold chain points.
- 1,270 Child Protection functionaries were trained on grief counselling and methods to share difficult news to children regarding death or illness of parent/s
- UNICEF WASH services directly reached 404 health centres and 500 vaccination centres.
- *Mask Nahi Toh Tokenge* communication campaign reached over 1.3 million people with the support of 104,000 trained youth volunteers in Rajasthan.
- Model demonstrated for doorstep counselling and tele-monitoring nutrition services to prevent COVID-19 induced undernutrition and food insecurity via 45,000 self-help groups in 19 districts of five States.

UNICEF HAC India Appeal 2021 US\$ 126.6 million



Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

India's COVID-19 surge in May 2021 was the worst witnessed in any country in a month since the beginning of the pandemic, both in terms of the absolute number of cases and fatalities. The height of the surge saw more than 3 cases per second and nearly 3 deaths per minute. The immediate impacts inflicted on the health care delivery systems persisted as hospital admissions continued to climb steeply. While the numbers have gradually declined, they remain high. There were 3,460 deaths reported in a single day on 30th May 2021. While data suggests that cases are reducing in urban areas, anecdotal evidence indicates widespread community transmission continues in the rural areas.

A total of 5,424 cases of Mucormycosis were reported in 18 states in COVID-19 treated patients. The most cases (2,292) were reported in Gujarat, followed by Maharashtra (1,188), Uttar Pradesh (663), Madhya Pradesh (519), Haryana (339) and Andhra Pradesh (248). Nineteen states have so far issued a notification of Mucormycosis as a notifiable disease.

Adding to the existing crisis, people continue to move across the country as a consequence of the various local lockdowns imposed by the government. Those on the move are primarily informal workers from densely populated urban slums who have lost their livelihoods and access to essential services. They have been left with little alternative than to relocate to their places of origin in rural districts.

The extremely severe cyclone 'Tauktae' made landfall in the Saurashtra region of the western state of Gujarat on 17 May 2021 with wind speeds of 160-170 kmph. About 30,000 dwellings suffered damage, and interruption of power-supply adversely impacted water supply, leading to an increase in open defecation. The storm also impacted the coastal areas of Maharashtra state with wind damage and floods. Overall, 390,000 children have had their homes impacted. Children in 1,567 cyclone affected villages in the five most impacted districts are particularly vulnerable.

On 26 May 2021, a second storm, this time a very severe Cyclonic storm 'Yaas' impacted four districts each in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal with winds of 130 -140 kmph, gusting to 155 kmph along with a high storm tidal surge. According to the Government of West Bengal, 4,500 low lying villages have been inundated with saline water following the storm surge that led to 145 breaches in embankments.

The severe cyclones impacting vulnerable communities amidst the difficult COVID-19 resurgence further complicated the response for both humanitarian crises.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF ramped up the response to the escalating COVID-19 crisis, as well as support for rapid response to those most severely impacted by the cyclones in Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal. UNICEF's strategic focus continues primarily on supporting health systems and strengthening the risk communication and community engagement initiatives to improve COVID-Appropriate Behaviours (CAB) and to address vaccine hesitancy and eagerness. The priority is also to ensure continuity of access to essential services, particularly for the most vulnerable. UNICEF India continues to work with government, NGOs, private sector and other partners to adapt its programmes and response to the evolving situation and critical needs of the most vulnerable children and communities across India. UNICEF supports efforts to respond to COVID-19 through the Joint Response Plan to COVID-19 focusing on the health response, coordinated by the World Health Organization, and the UN Immediate Socio-Economic Response Framework (UN-SERF), with multisectoral interventions to mitigate the various impacts on the most vulnerable. UNICEF also coordinates with the Government of India as part of the empowered groups created under the National Disaster Management Act (2005). UNICEF continues to be among the lead agencies partnering with the government on the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign and supporting its implementation. The COVID-19 Response Plan supports the Government of India at Union level and in 17 states, working with a multitude of partners to enable results across the following areas:

Health

UNICEF continues working with the Ministry and Departments of Health at central and state levels to respond comprehensively to the increased needs of paediatric care systems. UNICEF advocated for, facilitated, and contributed to the guidance on the management of COVID-19 from state governments and the India Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) for practitioners and parents. UNICEF teams collaborated with national paediatric institutes of repute, the Sphere Network of NGOs and the COVID-19 academy to sensitize practitioners and parents regarding FAQs on COVID-19 management in pregnant women and children. Some 8,000 functionaries and civil society organizations members were sensitized. UNICEF continues to support the capacity building of frontline functionaries, mentoring of facility-based health care workers, and quality assurance assessments (including fire safety), on quality of care in labour and delivery, Special New-born Care Units (SNCUs) and community outreach sessions. About 4,000 health care workers have been trained, healthcare workers in 200+ facilities and 20,000 outreach sessions mentored.

UNICEF has contributed significantly to the national response to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in India, investing particularly in the procurement of equipment and supplies aimed at strengthening the availability of oxygen care, testing and screening. During May 2021, UNICEF delivered three million triple layered masks and 400,000 face shields to the 24 states/ Union Territories. UNICEF also procured over 4,500 oxygen concentrators delivered to the states by the end of May, adding to the 3,000 that were already procured towards the end of 2020 and were readily deployed and are currently in use in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. More investment in oxygen products is ongoing. UNICEF is in the process of installing 26 oxygen generation plants in Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Tripura. In addition, 512 High Flow Nasal Cannulas have been delivered to 10 States and another 200 were procured in May 2021. Based on the request from Indian Council for Medical Research, UNICEF supplied and installed 85 RT-PCR test machines in 73 laboratories spread across 25 States and Union Territories. Some 200 additional RT-PCR machines and 100 RNA extraction machines are also under procurement. A total 64 mass thermal scanners



German Ambassador to India, Walter J. Lindner (C) and UNICEF India Representative Dr Yasmin Ali Haque (R) visit the District Vaccine Store at MMG hospital in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh., where COVID 19 vaccines are stored in Ice Lined Refrigerators supplied by UNICEF with financial support from with funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany and KfW.

have been procured, delivered and are being installed in 24 airports and 11 seaports. This is in addition to 10 thermal scanners that were installed in 2020.

UNICEF initiated partnerships with National Health System Resource Center (NHSRC) and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) for the roll out of psychosocial support for frontline health care workers. UNICEF, in partnership with NIMHANS is testing a mobile app for sharing of safety and wellness content and connecting the frontline health care workers with psychiatric social workers and psychiatrists.

Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) India

Since the launch of COVID-19 Vaccine drive on 16 January 2021, 213.1 million doses, including 168.6 million first dose and 44.5 million second doses, have been administered to people aged ≥ 18 years. Approximately 21 per cent of people among targeted 900 million, including 97 per cent health care workers and 74 per cent frontline workers, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

UNICEF contributed to the vaccine roll-out through planning and forecasting cold chain needs, development and updating of training material and operational guidelines, the capacity building of stakeholders and implementation and monitoring of vaccination drive. UNICEF has augmented the cold-chain capacity across 641 districts in 34 states to potentially reach an additional 87 million COVID-19 vaccine beneficiaries per month. This additional capacity contributes towards fulfilling the required cold chain capacity for overall target COVID-19 beneficiary population of nearly 900 million and existing routine immunization beneficiaries of 26 million children and 30 million pregnant women. To date, 98 per cent of the electrical cold chain equipment (walk-in cold rooms, walk-in freezer rooms, ice lined refrigerators, deep freezers, solar direct drive refrigerator) and 76 per cent of the non-electrical cold chain equipment (cold boxes, vaccine-carriers, voltage-stabilizers) have been delivered to designated users across the country.

Training modules for use of the supplied ice lined refrigerators were developed and disseminated. A total of 2,346 supportive supervision visits were conducted across 16 states in May. UNICEF has also collaborated with the private sector and organized orientation sessions on COVID-19 vaccination for large companies such as Oracle, SAP, and DBS Bank with the objective to sensitize employees and to become vaccine champions.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continued to engage with the central and state government's relevant line-ministries to ensure optimal outreach of messages to all communities. The messages focused on promoting vaccines to those aged 18-44, addressing vaccine hesitancy especially in rural and tribal areas, management of vaccine eagerness and COVID-appropriate behaviours (CAB) continued to be a challenge.

Overcrowding at health facilities drove the need to develop comprehensive training packages and products on 'CAB Plus' (COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviours, adding elements such as home isolation, addressing self-medication, guidance on proning and use of pulse oximeters). Through partnership with Facebook simple digital content on what to do if a person tests positive and how/when to isolate at home was promoted to millions free of cost. Rajasthan launched a campaign called Mask Nahi Toh Tokenge, reaching over 1.3 million people with the support of 104,000 trained youth volunteers. With infection spreading rapidly in rural and tribal communities, frontline and community health workers in all states were trained to conduct house to house visits and to engage with communities discussing fears, perceptions and preventive behaviours. For example, 260,000 village and ward volunteers were trained in Andhra Pradesh to reach all villages in the state. A multistate partnership was established in the north-eastern states with Don Bosco University to work with 50 community-based organizations and youth networks to engage communities. Representatives from 195 community radio stations were trained to conduct discussions on CAB plus during narrow cast. A partnership was established with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India to train their members to foster community discussions.

Nutrition

Most states in India restricted essential nutrition services and frontline functionaries have been assigned to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccination. In-person counselling activities for improved feeding, care and child development practices during the first 1,000 days have been constrained. To address these challenges, UNICEF has supported state governments to transition to nutrition messaging via telephone and digital platforms. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has updated its recommendations to now include and start vaccination of all breastfeeding mothers.



Vidhya Jain 55 year old (2nd right) Anganwadi worker talking to pregnant women and young mothers about the importance of nutritious food at the Jethana B Anganwadi centre in Jethana village.

UNICEF supported multiple states to issue or re-issue guidelines to ensure continuity of care for children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) through the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres, along with community-based screening. UNICEF continued and expanded its support to the National Rural Livelihood Mission in 19 districts of five States in 2021 for multi-sector nutrition actions like doorstep counselling and tele-monitoring nutrition services to prevent COVID-19 induced undernutrition and food insecurity via 45,000 self-help groups. The round two of sentinel monitoring was completed in May 2021.

Child Protection

UNICEF continued to support the state governments in reaching children who have lost parent/s during the pandemic via technical guidance and inputs into protocols, implementation of schemes and optimal reach into communities. UNICEF in partnership with the NIMHANS has trained 1,270 Child Protection functionaries on grief counselling and methods to share difficult news with children regarding death or illness of parent/s and provide coping strategies. Advisories and guidance prepared have been disseminated across all states on care of children due to death of parent/s and those who are hospitalized. UNICEF provided technical inputs in the implementation of state action plans for family-based alternative care options and linking with social protection benefits. Efforts on prevention of child marriage in the times of COVID-19 through district task forces continued in states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and Odisha. Additionally, UNICEF has provided 25,000 reusable masks, 37,000 sanitizers and 11,500 face shields to CHILDLINE staff across all states to ensure their safety on the ground. In support of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) national adolescent programme, in collaboration with MoHFW, 159 adolescent health counsellors and state representatives from Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were trained on gender-based violence, and prevention of violence against children.

Education

All schools and Anganwadis remain closed due to the pandemic and summer vacation. In the current context, UNICEF is providing technical support to the state governments and partners in the planning and development of guidelines for continuity of learning with a focus on evolving alternate strategies to reach children who do not have access to remote learning. UNICEF provided technical support in the development of digital and non-digital content along with preparation of self-learning resource materials for increased access and use of learning materials by students. UNICEF provided technical support in the preparation of guidelines and action plans for the back-to-school campaign and the development and roll out of learning resource packages of remedial education programmes to mitigate learning loss of children due to extended closure of schools. At the national level, UNICEF is providing technical support to Ministry of Education in the preparation of new guidelines for parents to better support learning at home.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Infection Prevention and Control

Work continues with line ministries (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and MoHFW) on the response to COVID-19 reaching affected communities. Three advisories on activating Swachhagrahis (sanitation volunteers), gram panchayats (village councils) and guiding the overall WASH inclusive COVID-19 response with dedicated resources were issued. UNICEF is supporting needs assessment and planning for WASH/IPC in Health and Vaccination centres, and directly delivered WASH services reaching 404 health centres and 500 vaccination centres. COVID-19 responsive training module for schoolteachers was developed and widely disseminated and UNICEF has led trainings in several

states including Bihar and Assam with 44,000 schoolteachers trained and engaged to date. 70,000 Swachhagrahis were trained and engaged on CAB and Infection Prevention and Control in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Hand Hygiene is being widely promoted, at national level with the development of the national roadmap, and in the field, with pedal operated handwashing stations provided in health facilities. For example, 500 such stations were set up in Gujarat and the Apni Suraksha Apne Haath mass awareness hand hygiene campaign was rolled out in Jharkhand.



Shashikala Kureti's daughter eight-year-old Lavanya Kureti drinks water from the tap connection in her house in Rajanandgaon, Siralghar district, Chhattisgarh.

Social Protection

UNICEF has been working across the social protection and child protection domain to advocate for children who have lost parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have announced cash transfers to all children who have lost both their parents. Madhya Pradesh has also added free education and ration for vulnerable children, linked to the cash transfer. UNICEF continues to advocate with the state governments in Maharashtra,

Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh to develop social protection programmes for these vulnerable children and link to complementary services.

Adolescent Participation and Youth Engagement

Across all States, adolescent and young people's networks have been mobilized to support ongoing initiatives on amplifying CAB and vaccination including the Young Warrior initiative by Yuwaah and partners. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, [YuWaah](#) and [UNICEF](#) along with a multi-stakeholder consortium of over 1,350 partners launched a pan-India movement led by young people. The [Young Warrior](#) movement has been live for three weeks (10th to 31st May) and we have had **over 250,000 young people directly engaged** already.

Over 100 million people have already engaged via social and mass media outreach from across the country. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG), National Cadet Corps (NCC) amongst others have sent out a circular to all schools and colleges, and the National Service Scheme (NSS) / Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) networks are being activated through national and state led efforts. The movement has gained great momentum in its first three weeks –

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In line with the Joint UN Response Plan, UNICEF continues to support the ongoing Government-led response efforts to address and mitigate the health impact of COVID-19. UNICEF also participates in the Government of India's Empowered Group-6 chaired by the NITI Aayog CEO which engages International Organizations, CSOs and industry organizations, among others, in India's fight against COVID-19. During the reporting period, UNICEF, along with RCO and WHO, also interacted with the Government of India's Empowered Group 3 on opportunities for strengthening collaboration in the current pandemic situation. Since the sudden resurgence of COVID-19, the National Disaster Management Authority has introduced weekly coordination meetings with civil society to enhance the involvement of CSOs in the response. UNICEF also continues to support Sphere India and Inter Agency Groups (IAGs) at national and state levels respectively to enable coordinated response by civil society groups.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF India has revised its HAC appeal upwards from US\$53.9 million to US\$126.7 million, given the sudden and unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases and the significant spike in related needs. This includes US\$117.2 million to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and US\$9.5 million to respond to other humanitarian crises, including natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, etc. The revised requirements take into consideration any adaptations needed to mitigate risks in the context of COVID-19. As of 04 June 2021, the Appeal is 42 per cent funded, which includes over US\$ 21.7 million carry-over from 2020.

UNICEF India expresses its sincere gratitude to the many Governments, International Financial Institutions and private and public sector donors who have generously donated and pledged funding to the appeals. This includes the Government of Japan, Government of Germany (BMZ/KfW), Asian Development Bank (ADB), USAID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Capgemini, Cognizant, Google, Nayara Energy, DBS Bank India, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), IKEA, Johnson and Johnson, Liechtenstein, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), Oracle India Pvt. Ltd., Kimberley Clark (India and USA), HSBC, Microsoft, Admiral Insurance (UK), Capgemini (France), Teck Resource (Canada), Sony (Japan), Nord Anglia Education (UK), Burberry (UK), Ericsson AB (Sweden), Danaher (US), European Investment Bank Institute (Luxembourg), UNICEF National Committee and Country Office partners and others.

Funding Status as of 04 June 2021

Sector	Requirement	Funds Received		TOTAL FUNDS Received	Funding GAP	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)		Amount	%
Health	55,603,185	17,771,494	15,769,954	33,541,448	2,061,737	40%
Nutrition	12,496,680	245,399	161,302	406,701	12,089,979	97%
Water & Sanitation	31,847,997	2,509,165	3,214,773	5,723,938	26,124,059	82%
Child Protection	8,085,420	245,199	1,152,805	1,398,004	6,687,416	83%
Education	7,903,980	347,413	97,890	445,303	7,458,677	94%
Social Protection	4,388,580	245,049	151,181	396,230	3,992,350	91%
Preparedness and Risk Reduction	3,362,310	245,049	399,280	644,329	2,717,981	81%
Communication for Development	2,976,750	274,579	625,915	900,494	2,076,256	70%
Unallocated		9,870,166	83,677	9,953,843		
Total Funding Requirement	126,664,902	31,753,512	21,656,778	53,410,290	73,254,612	58%

News, Media & Multi-media stories

Cold chain equipment procured by UNICEF with support from Germany BMZ and KfW [Video](#)

Geneva Palais briefing note on the impact of the deadly COVID-19 surge on children in India [Link](#)

UNICEF India Representative remarks at a media briefing on the status of the COVID-19 crisis [Link](#)

UNICEF with support from DP World sends critical supplies to India [Link](#)

UNICEF India News [UNICEF supports 26 oxygen plants and sends over 4,000 oxygen concentrators, and other critical supplies as India continues to grapple with COVID-19](#)

The Government of Canada support to UNICEF India relief efforts: https://fb.watch/5X7fVvto_9/

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