HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF Georgia is supporting the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in providing information on COVID-19 vaccination to medical personnel, teachers, media, religious leaders and municipal staff. – please see MONTHLY FOCUS on page 4.
- Four videos were produced with participation of prominent medical doctors (Dr. Bidzina Kulumbegov, Dr. Ivane Chkhaidze, Dr. Zviad Kipiani and Dr. Khatuna Zakhashvili) answering the emerging questions about COVID-19 vaccination reaching 154,000 people and engaging 12,063.
- During a visit to Ninostminda Boarding School, UNICEF, MoIDPOTLHSA, Patriarchate and World Vision established a cooperation with the aim of supporting desinstitutionalization of all children.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local partners, provided 383 families, including 1,220 children and 929 adults from all districts of Abkhazia, with food and hygiene parcels. In addition, 177 vulnerable families living in rural areas received parcels including sets of vegetable seeds.
- With financial support from USAID, hygiene promotion interventions have been carried out in 23 districts of four regions of Georgia (Samtske-Javakheti, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Kvemo Kartli regions) reaching 700 adolescents.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union and “Parents for Education” organized a positive parenting week to commemorate Child Protection Day in Georgia and to highlight the impact of the pandemic on parents and children.
- The third wave of the Real Time Monitoring survey started, focusing on child physical and mental health, access to healthcare services and early childhood development.
- Eleven sets of computers and multifunctional printers were handed over to the Social Services Agency to support the increased case load caused by COVID-19.
- UNICEF procured and delivered PPEs to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation.
- UNICEF Georgia, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Adjara Autonomous Republic announced the second annual international conference dedicated to the incorporation of child rights into university education programmes and curricula.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>359,141</th>
<th>5,175</th>
<th>40,819</th>
<th>Abkhazia</th>
<th>UNICEF funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed cases</td>
<td>Confirmed deaths</td>
<td>Child (&lt;18 years) cases</td>
<td>Confirmed cases – 15,711</td>
<td>Confirmed deaths – 238</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

- UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on risk communication; provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers; and mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC) & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- UNICEF continues to support the COVID-19 national vaccination process through multimedia storytelling, media meetings and by providing the regular social media analytics on vaccines to partners at NCDC and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoIDPOTLHSA).
- Video and photo stories about vaccination of doctors in Samtskhe-Javakheti, teachers in Adjara and religious leaders in Kvemo Kartli region were produced and shared via UNICEF social media platforms.
- UNICEF Representative, experts and local community leaders all stressed the importance and urgency for all to get their vaccines as soon as possible, leading by their personal examples, with UNICEF Representative receiving his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
• Four videos were produced with prominent medical doctors (Dr. Bidzina Kulumbegov, Dr. Ivane Chkhaidze, Dr. Zviad Kipiani and Dr. Khatuna Zakhashvili) answering the emerging questions about COVID-19 vaccines, reaching 154,000 people and engaging 12,063 on social media.

• Photo and video stories about UNICEF staff members, as well as stories of people who got their COVID-19 vaccines were amplified through social media channels, reaching 1,911,660 and engaging 62,171.

• A video story was produced about a civic initiative aimed at promoting trustworthy information about vaccination.

• With financial support from USAID, 60 UNICEF Youth Health Ambassadors created and shared communications packages on COVID-19 prevention measures and conducted more than 50 peer seminars/discussions around the country. UNICEF Representative, along with partners from USAID, congratulated the youth on their achievements during the project closing event and attended a community info-session in Tskaltubo school #1.

• UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union and “Parents for Education”, organized a positive parenting week to commemorate Child Protection Day in Georgia, highlighting the impact of the pandemic on parents and children. On 1 June, the week was kicked off at a launch event where high-level officials discussed the importance of family support services, especially during the pandemic. UNICEF Representative Dr Ghassan Khalil also stressed this focus in his video address. The week included an open-air discussion about positive parenting, a webinar and an info-meeting with psychologists for parents on how to communicate with children, how to use positive parenting skills, how to become supporters of children and help them during the pandemic. A number of multimedia stories were also released during the week about parents and children, highlighting the importance of positive upbringing and mutual respect in relationships (Nini and Mariam, Teona and children).

HEALTH, NUTRITION & WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

• With financial support from USAID, hygiene promotion interventions have been carried out in 23 districts of four regions of Georgia (Samtskhe-Javakheti, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Kvemo Kartli regions). Adolescents and young people were actively engaged in designing and organizing the hygiene promotion events. Webinars were conducted by a hygiene specialist from NCDC and, during face-to-face meetings, adolescents received information leaflets and posters on proper hygiene as well as hygiene supplies. Around 700 adolescents were reached on COVID-19 pandemic prevention measures and it is anticipated that the trained adolescents will convey this information to their peers as well as carry out volunteering works in their communities.

• UNICEF, with financial support from GAVI, organized information sessions in Adjara and Kvemo Kartli regions about COVID-19 vaccination. UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil, together with the Director General of the NCDC, Dr Amiran Gamkrelidze, and prominent health experts visited cities of Batumi and Marneuli to take part in the sessions and promote COVID-19 immunisation process in Georgia.

CHILD PROTECTION

• UNICEF procured and delivered PPEs to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation.

• During a visit to Ninostminda Boarding School, UNICEF, MoIDPOTLHS, Patriarchate and World Vision established a cooperation with the aim of supporting desinstitutionalization of all children.

• With support from UNICEF, Public Defender’s Office (PDO) prepared its monitoring data on Sexual Violence Against Children. The findings will be presented to the wider public by the end of this month.

• With the initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC), UNICEF continued working on a project to provide technical assistance to the Public Defender's Office to undertake and complete a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19.

• UNICEF, in cooperation with the EU and the Ministry of Justice, organized a conference on Diversion and Mediation and Restorative Justice in Georgia, presenting 10 years of progress, an overview of 2020, existing challenges and proposed solutions.
• UNICEF supported a conference on the Juvenile Referral Center for children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility and difficult behaviour to discuss achievements as well as challenges related to the implementation of the referral procedures, coordination, service availability and development of a model for residential care for children at risk of becoming in conflict with the law.

• UNICEF, with its partner MAC Georgia, started focus group discussions with various disability groups, including children, on the reform of the disability assessment and status determination system.

• UNICEF forged a partnership with LEPL Pharmaceutical and Medical Regulation Agency of MoIDPOTLHSA to formulate proper quality control and assurance mechanisms, as well as an electronic data collection and analysis system within the biopsychosocial model of disability assessment and status determination system.

• UNICEF, in cooperation with local partners, provided 383 families, including 1,220 children and 929 adults from all districts of Abkhazia, with food parcels and hygiene sets. In addition, 177 vulnerable families living in rural areas also received sets of vegetable seeds.

• In celebration of International Child Protection Day, UNICEF carried out a social campaign, including the production and broadcasting of 10 videos on child’s rights and organization of a Fun Run “For the best start in life for every child” in Abkhazia.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

• The third wave of the Real Time Monitoring survey started, focusing on child physical and mental health, access to healthcare services and early childhood development. The survey will continue until the end of the year and will provide information of different aspects of social life of the households during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• UNICEF supported the Social Service Agency (SSA) to handle the increase case load due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of eleven sets of computers and multifunctional printers. UNICEF Deputy Representative Amy Clancy acknowledged the importance of the efficient work of the SSA frontline workers during the increased socio-economic needs of Georgian population.

• On 1 June, the Prime Minister announced an increase of child benefits for the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) programme. From 1 July 2021, each child living in socially vulnerable family with less than 120,000 score will receive 100 GEL monthly child benefit (as opposed to 50 GEL for children in families with 100,000 score). An additional 145 million GEL from the state budget will be allocated for this purpose and additional 25,000 children will be eligible for support thus the total number of children covered by TSA will be 215,000. UNICEF has been advocating for the increase of child benefits based on the micro simulation analysis that was undertaken in February 2020 to find optimal solutions to off-set the negative effect of the COVID-pandemic on Georgian children.

EDUCATION

• UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia and Adjara in the design and implementation of a series of capacity development activities for preschool educators and managers for improved services for young children, starting with an event for all municipalities of Adjara to share achievements, challenges and next steps from the eight pilot preschools in Batumi and Khulo.
UNICEF Georgia, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Adjara Autonomous Republic announced second annual international conference dedicated to the incorporation of child rights into university education programmes and curricula. “We are delighted that after the October international conference in Kutaisi, the second International Conference will take place at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, which is one of the first universities in Georgia to incorporate child rights into their programmes and curricula,” said UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil. “We hope the Conference and the establishment of the Child Rights Centre at the University will contribute to strengthening the culture of child rights in Georgia. UNICEF will continue partnering with Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and other universities to promote child rights education in Georgia,” Khalil added.

MONTHLY FOCUS: Supporting NCDC in COVID-19 Vaccination Demand Creation

UNICEF, in partnership with the National Centre for Disease Control and the Ministries of Health and Education of Adjara AR, organized meetings with medical personnel, teachers, sholl administration, media, and religious leaders in Batumi. The sessions were led by prominent medical doctors with the goal of providing information on COVID-19 vaccination and the immunization process in Georgia. Following the sessions, participants had the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Video and photo stories about the vaccination of teachers in Adjara were produced and shared via UNICEF social media platforms. In addition, four videos were produced with the prominent medical doctors (Dr. Bidzina Kulumbegov, Dr. Ivane Chkhaidze, Dr. Zviad Kipiani and Dr. Khatuna Zakhashvili) to answer the emerging questions about COVID-19 vaccines, reaching 154,000 people and engaging 12,063 on social media.

“Vaccination of key frontline workers, such as teachers and school administration, will ensure children and their families regain continued access to education and social life at schools, which has been severely disrupted.” – Dr Ghassan Khalil

UNICEF, in partnership with NCDC, organized information sessions by healthcare experts for the Muslim religious leaders of Marneuli where COVID-19 and the situation with immunization in Georgia were discussed. Another session was organized for the health practitioners of Marneuli and representatives of Municipality City Hall. Following the sessions, participants had the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
During the visit to Batumi a two-day seminar was held for representatives of the Orthodox Church regarding child rights and COVID-19 vaccination.

During the visit to Marneuli, a meeting was held with Muslim religious leaders regarding immunization situation in Georgia.

UNICEF is sharing trust-worthy information about vaccinations including a video story about a civic initiative. UNICEF continues to share photo and video stories about UNICEF staff members, as well as stories of people who got their COVID-19 vaccines, reaching 1,911,660 and engaging 62,171.

FUNDING 2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>675,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>402,750</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,472,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>200,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,272,750</strong></td>
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PARTNERSHIPS
UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 21 July 2021.

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