HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF Georgia continues to support 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.
- Under the initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC), and with UNICEF’s support, the Public Defender’s Office is completing a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19.
- Field work for the fourth wave of the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) survey started, focusing on household material deprivation and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- UNICEF continues to support the Government of Georgia in the process of deinstitutionalization. A working meeting was held to develop specific directions and practical steps to accelerate deinstitutionalization, strengthen family support and improve the quality of alternative care. The First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science, Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, and UNICEF Representative reiterated the importance of a child-focused approach to deinstitutionalisation.
- A new chemical risk-factor research laboratory was opened at NCDC Georgia with the support of UNICEF, Clarios Foundation, USAID and the Estonian Government. The laboratory is a part of the Government’s response plan to prevent lead exposure and protect children from the related toxic effects.
- As part of its 75th anniversary commemorations, UNICEF National Ambassador Nikoloz Rachveli visited Akhmeta, where he met with young people and conducted a masterclass.
- UNICEF organized seminars on the learning-teaching methodology of child rights for the academic staff of Akaki Tsereteli State University and Shota Meskhia State Teaching University.
- UNICEF continues its delivery of humanitarian aid to 444 families in Abkhazia, reaching 1,398 vulnerable children with critical food and hygiene supplies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITUATION IN NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>496,376</strong> Confirmed cases (10.71% 14-day positivity rate)</td>
</tr>
</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 national COVID-19 vaccination process through multimedia storytelling, media meetings and by providing 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 teachers in mountainous region of Adjara were used to further promote vaccination among educators and other groups. In the video from Akhaltsikhe, teachers talk about how the info-session helped them debunk the myths they believed before about the vaccines.
- In the video about UNICEF intervention for tourism sector representatives, UNICEF Representative stressed the importance of vaccination of all front-line workers.
- UNICEF shared stories of young people from Tbilisi and Khulo on their motivation for vaccination which included personal responsibility, caring for their older family members, and contributing to safer environment in schools.
As part of its 75th anniversary commemorations, UNICEF National Ambassador Nikoloz Rachveli met with young people from Pankisi and Akhmeta villages. The meeting included a masterclass by the maestro, who shared his personal life story with the youngsters and engaged with them, sharing musical experiences as well.

Mr Nikoloz Rachveli, UNICEF’s Ambassador, in Akhmeta, meeting with local young people and conducting a piano masterclass.

UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union, continues to support the Government in the deinstitutionalization process. Following a working meeting organized by UNICEF on this topic, a number of communication materials were produced to raise awareness about the issue and highlight the importance of a child-focused approach in this process. Videos with participation of the First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science, Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the UNICEF Representative were produced about the next steps that need to be taken in order to accelerate the deinstitutionalization process. Social media cards were also prepared and shared, generating over 10,000 views and reactions.

A series of videos with participation of experts (Maya Tsiramua, Keti Tavartkiladze) were produced and shared on social media platforms to raise awareness about sexual violence against children. The aim of the series was to stress the importance of prevention, identification and proper management of such cases. In one video, UNICEF elaborates recommendations and mentions the establishment of a special service centre for child victims of sexual violence introduced in Georgia with support from UNICEF and the Government of Estonia, in cooperation with the State Care Agency.

UNICEF reached over 500,000 people through its social media platforms.

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

A new chemical risk factor research laboratory was opened in July at NCDC Georgia with support from UNICEF, Clarios Foundation, USAID and the Estonian Government. The laboratory is a part of the Government’s response plan to prevent lead exposure and protect children from the related toxic effects. The laboratory has been furnished with cutting-edge equipment that will allow not only to detect lead and other toxic elements in various specimens but also conduct deep analysis and investigate the sources and pathways of contamination. Establishment of the chemical laboratory is an important step forward toward addressing the problem of lead and other toxic metals affecting the health and development of children in Georgia.
CHILD PROTECTION

- UNICEF, in cooperation with local partners, completed the sixth phase of the delivery of humanitarian aid to 444 families in Abkhazia, reaching 1,398 vulnerable children with critical food and hygiene supplies.

- Under the initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC), and with UNICEF’s support, the Public Defender's Office is completing a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19.

- Under a joint UNICEF-EU partnership, a two-day working meeting was convened to discuss the next steps on how to ensure a family environment for every child residing in large-scale institutions. The two-day working meeting aimed to formulate a shared understanding and mapping of the current situation and to develop specific directions for the joint strategy and practical steps to accelerate deinstitutionalization reform across Georgia, including strengthening of family support and improving the quality of the alternative care.

- The UNICEF Representative, together with the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Affairs as well as the Head of the State Care Agency, visited Ninotsminda Boarding School to discuss the wellbeing of the remaining 15 children. The UNICEF Representative reiterated that deinstitutionalisation of children should be take place throughout the country and all children have the right to a family environment, with priority given to biological families.

- The UNICEF Representative met with the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe to discuss the establishment of a Child Rights Center in Samtskhe Javakheti University, promotion of vaccination among teachers and pre-school staff, and the implementation of the Code on the Rights of the Child.

- An integrated service (Barnahus) for child victims of violence and crime is in the process of establishment under a UNICEF-Estonian joint project. An extensive training module on the capacity building of integrated service and partner agencies’ staff on Barnahus standards and child-friendly investigating approaches were developed in partnership with the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, and another shorter training on the integrated service concept and standard operating procedures for the social services, police, prosecutor's office, courts, and legal aid service was developed.

- The Public Defender’s Office, with UNICEF’s support, held an online conference to present the findings of the study on The Administration of Justice on Crimes of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children, that involved stakeholders from the Government, the Parliament, Judiciary and NGO sector.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Field work for the fourth wave of the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) survey started on August 11. The fourth wave focuses on households’ material deprivation, COVID-19 vaccinations, child deprivation, gaming, attitudes towards people with disabilities, etc.

- UNICEF, together with other UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, WHO, OHCHR) held a working meeting with representatives from the disability community to report on the actions and plans within a joint project. With this initiative, UNICEF provides support to the Government of Georgia to transform a system of disability assessment and status determination and to optimize social protection measures for children with disabilities.

EDUCATION
UNICEF organized seminars on the learning-teaching methodology of child rights for the academic staff of Akaki Tsereteli State University and Shota Meskhia State Teaching University.

With the financial support of Norwegian Government, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Science in developing a training module for municipalities to facilitate efficient implementation of the Early and Preschool Education and Care Law, improving the quality and inclusion in preschool institutions. The module includes a session on bilingual education for the municipalities densely populated by national minorities.

A two-day workshop was organized as part of the trilateral partnership project between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Ministry of Education and Science, and UNICEF to generate policy recommendations to promote the implementation and institutionalization of the catch-up / accelerated learning curriculum (adapted curriculum) and a second-chance education programme. As a result of the meeting, several key recommendations have been developed that will form the basis of the policy document.

Within the framework of the Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science and UNICEF partnership, a series of training cycles in catch-up and accelerated learning curriculum were conducted for public school teachers and coaches of the ‘New School Model’ initiative.

MONTHLY FOCUS: UNICEF Continues to Support NCDC in COVID-19 Vaccination Demand Creation

UNICEF Representative, together with UNICEF staff members and prominent health experts, continue to engage in a nationwide information campaign to encourage COVID-19 vaccination among various groups of the population. The campaign brings a team of the prominent medical experts to facilitate educational and Q&A sessions on the need and safety of COVID-19 vaccination (including discussion on personal clinical cases) for targeted audiences. These sessions are coupled with voluntary on-the-spot vaccination under the supervision of the experts. UNICEF has held information sessions in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Mestia Municipality and Zugdidi municipalities, Samtskhe-Javakheti region, Akhaltsikhe municipality, as well as a number of HEI (higher education institutions), such as Shota Meskhia State Teaching University, Samtskhe-Javakheti State University, Telavi State University, Sokhumi State University, Gori University, etc.

Video and photo stories about vaccination of teachers in mountainous region of Adjara were used to further promote vaccination amongst educators and other groups. In Akhaltsikhe, teachers talk about how the info-session helped them debunk the myths they believed before about the vaccines. During a meeting with tourism sector representatives, the UNICEF Representative stressed the importance of vaccination of all front-line workers.

In addition, UNICEF continues to share stories of young people from Tbilisi and Khulo on their motivation for deciding to get vaccinated. Personal responsibility, as well as caring for their older family members, contributing to a safer environment in schools were mentioned as reasons.

Ghassan Khalil, UNICEF Representative, Amy Clancy, Deputy Representative and specialists meeting with the Minister of Education Mikheil Chkhenkeli highlighting the priority of vaccination of teachers and agreed on a plan for coordinated activities to promote vaccination.

UNICEF Representative and health specialists from NCDC meeting with teachers and administrative staff of Akhaltsikhe schools and discussing importance of COVID-19 vaccination for safe reopening of schools.
FUNDING 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>675,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>675,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>425,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>170,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>402,750</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>302,750</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 15 September 2021.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Ghassan Khalil
  Representative
  Mobile: +995 591 225 281
  Email: gkhalil@unicef.org

- Amy Clancy
  Deputy Representative
  Mobile: +995 551 548 170
  Email: aclancy@unicef.org

- Maya Kurtsikidze
  Communications Officer
  Mobile: +995 599 533 071
  Email: mkurtsikidze@unicef.org

- Thea Jamaspishvili
  Field Associate
  Mobile: +995 599 166 773
  Email: tjamaspishvili@unicef.org