Highlights

UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) works in 22 countries and territories1 and is present in Italy, supporting refugee and migrant populations.

- Between July–September 4.4 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 50,027 deaths were reported.2 Georgia recorded the highest rate of cases (6,169 per 100,000 population), followed by Montenegro (4,902). Compared to the previous quarter, the number of cases increased drastically, particularly in Montenegro (+258%), Georgia (+194%) and Kosovo* (+187%).

- Natural disasters wrought significant damage, including in Tajikistan where a major earthquake affected 4,480 people, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, where landslides due to heavy rains caused 15 fatalities and the Mediterranean where heatwaves triggered disastrous wildfires affecting over 473,00 people.

- UNICEF continued to efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities and enhance risk-informed programming to build resilience. The COVID-19 response continued to focus on preventing transmission and alleviating the impact on vulnerable children and families by enhancing systems and services in health, nutrition, child protection education, social protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and provision of critical supplies.

- During the reporting period, 96,018 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months were reached with messages and counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), 38,128 children and caregivers were granted mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), while 32,747 children and women accessed primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities.

- UNICEF ECARO has received US$ 35.2 million of the US$ 71.9 million requested. With an additional US$ 8.6 million carried forward from the previous year, a funding gap of 51% remains. UNICEF ECARO acknowledges and appreciates the generous contributions from all public and private sector donors.

### UNICEF’s Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding Required</th>
<th>Funding Received</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparedness, Response and DRR</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RO Technical Support</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo* **In line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1244), Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
2 Figures cover data from 23 countries including Italy to 30 September 2021 data source “WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard.
** https://www.covideducationrecovery.global/
*** Data from UNICEF Save the Children analysis, a baseline of 13.7 million children living in poor households prior to the crisis, and an additional 6.1 million new ones after the COVID 19 pandemic.
**** Figure estimated based on country specific interagency plans for earthquakes, 2017-2019, Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee contingency plan for earthquake in Central Asia and South Caucasus, 2016, Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, Disaster Risk Profile for Turkmenistan, 2015, and country multiple indicator surveys in 2018 and 2019.
Regional Funding Overview and Partnerships

Under the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) for Europe and Central Asia regional appeal, UNICEF is requesting US$ 71.9 million in 2021. At the end of the reporting period, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia (ECA) had received US$ 35.2 million, 49% of required funding, including US$ 8.6 million carry-forward from 2020 and US$ 26.6 million received in 2021. UNICEF is thankful for the support from donors whose contributions were received during the reporting period. These include: the European Union (EU); United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA); the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF); Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); the Kingdoms of Norway and Luxembourg; the Government of Switzerland; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom; Global Thematic Humanitarian Funds; UNICEF National Committees in Denmark, German, Sweden, and the Netherlands, as well as private sector donors.

At country level, UNICEF continued to work closely with other UN agencies, particularly WHO, UNDP, GAVI, governments and line ministries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and civil society organisations (CSOs) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on children and their families. With its partners, UNICEF worked to develop and implement strategic actions to alleviate negative effects of the pandemic and other emergencies.

Regional Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Between July and September 2021, 4.4 million confirmed cases and 50,000 deaths from COVID-19 were reported in the ECA region. 3 Georgia had the highest rate of confirmed cases, with 6,169 cases per 100,000 people, followed by Montenegro, with 4,902 cases per 100,000 people. The number of cases continued to increase across the region during the reporting period, bringing third or fourth waves of COVID-19 in many countries. Countries such as Tajikistan (+1173%), Albania (+374%) and Montenegro (+258%) witnessed a drastic increase in cases compared to the previous quarter. The Delta variant of COVID-19 has now become the predominant strain in the region, while the Alpha and Mu variant cases have also been detected. Increased cases continued to overstretch health system capacities in the region, making it challenging to provide basic health services. Low vaccination rates, vaccine hesitancy across countries, the re-opening of schools and the upcoming winter season are likely to lead to continued increases in cases and create further concerns in the forthcoming months.

UNICEF, together with WHO, continued to support governments in their response to the pandemic, including the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, tailored risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) efforts as well as procurement of critical commodities. By end September, all countries in ECAR were continuing COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, most countries - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan had received vaccines through the COVAX facility. Alongside COVAX allocations, COVID-19 vaccine donations from other countries continued to be received, amplify immunization in the region. By end September, 38% of the population in ECAR had received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 31% were fully vaccinated.

School closures throughout 2020 and in the first half of 2021 hindered access to education, affecting children’s learning and wellbeing, and even though education continued through blended or remote learning, children, particularly those from poor households without access to technologies, were greatly affected. While face to face learning has mostly continued for the new school year, the increase in number of cases in August and September delayed opening of schools in some countries. To restore learning losses and ensure equitable access to education, there is need for remedial learning programmes that prioritize solutions to address the digital divide. In some countries, providing a safe learning environment in the new school year has also been challenged by insufficient WASH supplies and services, necessitating continued support to scale up hygiene promotion and disease prevention, particularly in rural areas.

The pandemic continued to challenge socio-economic conditions and livelihoods of families and children. While ECA countries mobilised significant resources as part of the COVID-19 public sector response - an average 4.5 percent of GDP - half of the countries in the range 2-7 percent are now considering reducing social spending due to fiscal pressures and post-pandemic management. This situation may lead to uneven recovery across the region, where there is already a threat of stagnancy in employment opportunities with two million unemployed people projected for 2022. 4 There is thus a greater need to protect and improve existing social protection schemes targeting the most vulnerable children and families facing socio-economic impacts from COVID-19 and provide cash assistance to the most vulnerable, emergency impacted families.

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The region remains prone to natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, and landslides, as well as adverse effects of climate change and environmental impact, such as increasing droughts leading to water scarcity, wildfires, and air pollution. According to a recent study, 53 million children born in ECA since 2016 will experience about four times more extreme climate events. Efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities therefore continue to remain necessary. In July, severe droughts in Kazakhstan led to a state of emergency, affecting 71,000 people who faced scarcity of livestock, water resources and crops. In the same month, Tajikistan was hit by an earthquake of magnitude 6 on the Richter scale, affecting 4,480 people while in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, landslides due to heavy rains caused 15 fatalities. Heatwaves in July and August triggered disastrous wildfires in the Mediterranean. In Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, and Turkey 75,000 hectares were burned, and over 473,000 people were affected.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan continued to deteriorate, bringing risk of refugee inflows to Central Asia and some countries in Europe, requiring a scaling up of humanitarian preparedness efforts. By mid-September, over 2,500 Afghan refugees had been evacuated to Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo*, North Macedonia and Romania.

Regional humanitarian leadership, coordination, and strategy

UNICEF ECARO maintained its focus on enhancing capacity in emergency preparedness and response, strengthening risk-informed programming, emphasising child-centred disaster risk reduction (DRR), and implementing actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on children.

The COVID-19 response continued, with the aims to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact by providing a multisectoral response to children and their families. This included strengthening systems and services to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services; developing capacities of front-line health and social workers; enhancing disease prevention capacities by providing training and personal protective equipment (PPE); scaling up WASH services and supplies in schools and health care facilities; supporting quality, appropriate education and early learning services; supporting child protection services; preventing and responding to gender-based violence; providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for families and children in alternative care; promoting social protection services, including cash transfers for vulnerable families; facilitating appropriate risk communication and behaviour change activities; as well as engaging adolescents and young people. Through a multisectoral approach, UNICEF ensured linkages between humanitarian and development programmes to build resilient systems and services.

At the regional level, UNICEF continued to work closely with WHO, GAVI, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other relevant partners to support countries in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. UNICEF participated in regional coordination and technical groups covering supply and logistics, risk communication, and demand generation. At the country level, UNICEF, along with WHO and other partners, remained active in national coordination, providing technical support to governments in programme implementation and communication strategies related to COVID-19. UNICEF also worked with partners at country level to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic situation and mental health of vulnerable children and adolescents, generating evidence to inform policies and programmes.

Summary of UNICEF’s response actions in the region

Response actions reported herein were undertaken under the ECA 2021 HAC appeal, which includes UNICEF’s response in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Progress of UNICEF’s COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in ECAR is reported separately under UNICEF’s dedicated global ACT-A situation report.

Emergency preparedness, response and DRR

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to work in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to strengthen emergency preparedness and DRR efforts and provide humanitarian response to families at risk of and affected by risks and natural hazards in Central Asia.
response capacities, including emergency supplies, were leveraged to respond to earthquakes, floods, and border conflicts.

In the reporting period, UNICEF and National Red Crescent Societies (NRCS) in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan continued providing emergency support to families affected by the border conflict earlier in the year. Support in Kyrgyzstan included psychosocial support (PSS) to children in Batken, leveraging prepositioned supplies (Early Childhood Development (ECD) and recreational kits) and facilitating PSS for 15,723 displaced people (3,864 families including over 10,000 children) in temporary community shelters through Red Crescent Society Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) trained staff and volunteers. In Tajikistan, 950 affected households benefitted from a humanitarian cash transfer programme implemented jointly by UNICEF, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and German Red Cross (GRC).

Following the earthquake in July in Tajikistan, UNICEF with RCST, implemented a multisectoral response to meet immediate needs in affected areas, reaching over 300 households with emergency supplies and awareness materials on WASH and PSS. The response was recognized by the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES). In response to the mudflows and landslides in July, UNICEF with RCST distributed water purification tablets and WASH awareness materials, covering the entire population in Penjikent, Gornaya Matcha, Devastich and Aini districts. In Kyrgyzstan, in response to massive flash floods in Suzak, Toguz-Bulak, Leilek and Bakai Ata districts in May, UNICEF and RCSK provided immediate support to affected families, distributing 100 pre-positioned family hygiene and dignity kits, covering 500 people, including 300 children. Activities were planned and implemented based on a Needs Assessment conducted by RCSK.

Through a regional on-line WASH in Emergency training, delivered by IFRC and UNICEF, 31 participants from government, NRCS and UNICEF staff in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) enhanced their knowledge and skills to implement WASH response in an emergency context.

With the escalation of humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, and potential influx of refugees from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries in Central Asia, UNICEF enhanced emergency preparedness capacities in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan through prepositioning emergency supplies (hygiene kits, winter clothes for children, education/ECD kits, tents) developing contingency agreements with implementing partners and scaling up human resource capacities. UNICEF contingency plans for Central Asia are included under UNHCR’s 2021 Interagency refugee response plan (RRP) together with other UN agencies.

In Germany, US Ramstein Airbase became a temporary transit location for 35,000 evacuees from Afghanistan. Following requests for support, UNICEF provided technical assistance for unaccompanied children arriving on evacuation flights, including registration, and completing best interest assessments (BIA). UNICEF facilitated the identification of over 150 Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), supporting their onward movement towards durable solutions based on their best interests. Over 10 other countries received evacuees in the region, and ECARO continues to focus on providing specialized child protection technical support in Western Balkan countries, based on government requests.

**Nutrition**

UNICEF continued working with governments and local partners to disseminate age-specific information promoting breast-feeding in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. During this quarter, 96,018 primary caregivers of children (0-23 months) were reached with messages and counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In Uzbekistan, with the technical support and advocacy from UNICEF, the Government via UNICEF’s Supply Division procured micronutrient powders for children aged 6-23 months, reaching 480,681 children. Through UNICEF supported trainings, health personnel and primary care providers enhanced their knowledge and skills in breastfeeding and IYCF in Albania, Belarus, Romania, and Serbia. In Montenegro, UNICEF continued supporting the Institute for Public Health and Red Cross in organizing regular workshops about healthy lifestyles for Roma and Egyptian families across the country.

As a part of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, launched by UNICEF and WHO to encourage health facilities to better support breastfeeding, in Albania and Montenegro, UNICEF supported the development of tools to ensure implementation of safe breastfeeding protocols during COVID-19 and delivered trainings to the health workers.

**Health**

UNICEF continued to support governments and communities in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and restoring essential health services, overstretched by the pandemic and other emergencies. During the reporting
period, efforts focused on strengthening health systems through capacity building on infection prevention and control (IPC), providing healthcare services to pregnant women and new-borns, promoting catch-up immunization programmes, including provision of critical medical equipment and IPC supplies. UNICEF and partners disseminated information on COVID-19 and provided counselling, home visits and referral services for families and pregnant women to facilitate access to health care.

UNICEF enhanced the capacity of 4,471 healthcare facility professionals and community health workers in IPC in Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Serbia, and Uzbekistan. In Belarus, together with the Belarussian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, UNICEF provided webinars for 6,000 healthcare workers on COVID-19 prevention, diagnostics and treatment and developed educational and methodological e-modules on diagnostics, treatment, and prevention of COVID-19 infection in children; principles of intensive care and nutritional and respiratory support for children. In Albania, personal protective equipment (PPE) kits were provided to health facilities and in Belarus, UNICEF supported the government to procure PPE kits for baby homes and educational institutions.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, and Serbia, UNICEF supported governments and public health institutions on campaigns promoting the importance of immunisation during COVID-19. To enable an effective and evidence-based response to measles outbreaks and enhance routine immunization system in Kazakhstan, UNICEF supported national stakeholders in identifying gaps and bottlenecks, as well as mapping the vaccine procurement process.

In Turkey, UNICEF ensured routine vaccination of refugee and migrant children through monitoring and advocacy. UNICEF in Bulgaria, Serbia, and Kosovo* continued supporting nurses to undertake home visits to provide counselling to families with young children and pregnant women. In Kosovo* for example, around 4,481 children 0-3 years of age and their caregivers were reached through a UNICEF-supported home visits programme providing counselling as well as identification and referral of children with disabilities.

WASH

UNICEF continued working with national and local government authorities to support children and their families with critical WASH supplies, reaching 26,800 people during the third quarter. Targeted WASH interventions were implemented in health facilities, communities, and schools. Most notably, with the beginning of new school year across the region in August-September, efforts were pursued to ensure safe operation of schools by improving and maintaining WASH facilities and implementing crucial infection prevention and mitigation measures.

In the reporting period, UNICEF supported the renovation of WASH facilities in eight schools in Armenia, 25 schools in Georgia, while 52 handwashing stations were installed in 15 primary schools in North Macedonia. Personal hygiene items reached over 25,000 students and faculty members in Kosovo*, hygiene and cleaning kits were distributed to 401 schools and kindergartens in Ukraine. Furthermore, WASH supplies were provided to 28 healthcare and educational institutions in Ukraine, seven perinatal centres and seven children’s hospital in Kazakhstan and 1,300 primary healthcare centres in Moldova.

In Turkmenistan, UNICEF together with WHO conducted online consultations on WASH in schools for comparable national coverage estimates, and WASH assessment were conducted in 25 primary health care facilities and district hospitals in Uzbekistan to develop comprehensive WASH improvement activities.

Child protection, GBV and PSEA

UNICEF supported governments and partners to sustain community-based child protection services, including case management. In the third quarter, UNICEF together with partners, reached 40,505 children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through face-to-face or online counselling. Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine continued the delivery of MHPSS for children and adolescents through dedicated helplines, chats and online counselling.

UNICEF and partners continued to ensure availability of gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation, prevention and/or response services for children and their families through child helplines, GBV case management and capacity building of social workers in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

UNICEF’s response in the region focused on reaching the most vulnerable children, affected by disasters and requiring comprehensive support. For example, in Albania, 543 children (259 boys, 284 girls) who remain displaced from the earthquake of 2019 and are affected by the pandemic were supported with protection services, including emotional support to families, case assessment, management, and referral within temporary settlement areas. UNICEF in Uzbekistan conducted trainings for 36 state and non-state partners to strengthen
capacities of local social service workforce involved in direct service provision to vulnerable families to ensure better rehabilitation and reintegration of children and families affected by conflict into their local communities. In Armenia, support was provided to establish child-friendly spaces and MHPSS services, to children affected by conflict, displaced children, adolescents, and their families. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belarus, UNICEF provided trainings to over 75 experts from different organisations on online counselling and MHPSS to children, adolescents and their families.

In Georgia, UNICEF is establishing an integrated service (Barnahus) for child victims of violence and crime. As part of this service, an extensive training module on Barnahus standards and child-friendly investigating approaches was developed in partnership with the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, and another shorter training on the integrated service concept and standard operating procedures for social services, police, prosecutor’s office, courts, and legal aid service was developed.

**Education**

UNICEF worked with governments to ensure continuity of learning through building systems and capacities of education stakeholders to deliver quality, inclusive, blended or face to face learning. With the reopening of schools in the third quarter, UNICEF also focused on safe re-opening and maintaining safe return to schools, ensuring adequate preventive measures including WASH facilities are available in the education facilities. 11,669 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*.

To ensure continuity of education in case of a potential closure of schools, online learning platforms were developed and supported to expand interactive content in Albania, Montenegro, Romania, and Ukraine. Teachers were trained, improving their skills in blended learning and maintaining ICT standards in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia.

In Bulgaria, UNICEF contributed technical inputs to update the framework for reopening of kindergartens and schools and provided input for the development of education programming for 2021-2027, highlighting topics on prevention of school dropout, prevention of violence in schools, digital skills, and support for children with disabilities. In Kosovo*, UNICEF supported the update of the Guideline for Organization of Learning for the school year 2021-2022, adapting to COVID-19 context. The revised Guideline was disseminated to schools in preparation for the start of the new school year.

In Albania, to facilitate inclusive education and equal accessibility, UNICEF continued to advocate to address the issue of digital divide, supporting broadcasting of lessons and raising awareness on child rights. In the same context, UNICEF in Serbia, provided support to stream video lessons for all students attending upper secondary education, as well as provided SIM cards, internet packages and modems for 30 schools. To prepare for extended school closures, UNICEF in Turkey distributed early learning materials like wooden blocks, playmats, and xylophones for 1,000 vulnerable households in poor and remote communities.

To address the learning disruptions of displaced children, UNICEF provided trainings on remedial classes for 15 schools in Armenia. In Croatia, 269 Roma students (117 boys, 152 girls) at risk of dropout due to irregular schooling caused by COVID, were supported with daily or every-alternate-day-activities to build learning routines, have positive educational experiences, increase school motivation and aspirations.

**Social protection and cash transfers**

UNICEF continued to support governments in implementing cash transfer programmes for low-income, vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19 and other emergencies and strengthening existing social protection systems and services in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. In the third quarter, with UNICEF’s technical assistance, 124,200 households benefitted from new or additional social transfers from government.

As a co-lead of the UN humanitarian cash coordination working group, UNICEF in Armenia, continued working with government and partners to develop modalities for cash support to refugee-like populations in alignment with the Government programmes. A standard operating procedure for supporting cash assistance programmes was drafted and shared with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. As a result of continuous advocacy and technical support, the Government is relaunching a cash support programme for the most vulnerable displaced population, focusing on children, women, persons with disabilities and pensioners.

In September 2021, the average monthly number of children receiving cash benefits through the Single Registry of Social Protection exceeded 2.4 million in Uzbekistan. The Single Registry is a national management information system offering end-to-end digitization of the processes related to applying, assigning, and paying a social benefit to poor families. The system was introduced and rolled out with the support of UNICEF.
UNICEF continued analysing the impact of the COVID-19 on household poverty, child poverty and simulating the results of alternative cash-transfer scenarios in response to socio-economics shocks induced by COVID-19 in Turkey. Building on the simulations in the report, UNICEF continued technical assistance and policy advocacy engagement for increased cash transfer payments, child grants, and strengthened social protection systems.

C4D, community engagement and AAP

UNICEF’s Communication for Development (C4D) activities focused on effective measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through promotion of hygiene practices, social distancing, and other behaviour changes. UNICEF continued to support governments and implementing partners to develop context specific, gender and age-sensitive, socially, culturally, linguistically appropriate, and accessible messages on access to essential, safe, trusted, and reliable services. During the quarter, 7,077,299 people were reached through messaging on access to services in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

UNICEF’s COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) campaigns, including promotion of COVID-19 vaccines, tackling vaccine hesitancy and adherence to preventative measures, continued in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan through traditional and social media campaigns in coordination with governments and partners. In Azerbaijan, information on basic preventive measures reached 2,993 people and a reminder on importance to follow preventive measures even after vaccination reached 3,726 people on Facebook.

In Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia, informative content was shared through social media promoting safety and hygiene measures in schools. In Georgia, the campaign emphasised addressing the digital divide for children who do not have access to digital tools to engage in distance learning. With the beginning of the new school year, UNICEF in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to support school children’s magazines by disseminating child friendly messages on mental health, nutrition, and protection from COVID-19.

**Story from the field**

In a race against myths and prejudices, volunteers inform citizens door to door about immunization

Afërdita Halilaj sits on a chair in front of her house in Gjakova, while holding her eight-month-old baby in her right arm and her two-year-old son in her left arm.

The 36-year-old Afërdita, is a mother to nine children, seven boys and two girls. Like many of her peers from the Roma community, she got married very young. She lives in a family community in difficult economic conditions.

"We do not have good living conditions, as you can see", she says while continuing to feed her baby.

None of her children were vaccinated after birth, until November 2020, when volunteers from Bethany Christian Service Kosova, a UNICEF partner organization in the Child Immunization Project, identified the family and informed them of the need for immunization. Regular immunization of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children is only at 38%, so UNICEF and partners engaged even during the pandemic to improve this situation.

The Child Immunization Project, implemented through local partners by UNICEF Kosovo*, aims, among other things, to reach the children of the most vulnerable families, those who live in difficult economic conditions, or in rural areas, and do not have access to regular vaccination at Family Medicine Centres. This initiative is supported by the Government of Luxembourg. Read Afërdita’s full story here.

**Human interest stories and external media**

- UNICEF ECA Article: How to talk to your friends and classmates about COVID-19 and school reopening?
- UNICEF ECA Article: Ten mental health and well-being tips for teachers
- UNICEF Albania on Twitter: Delivery of PPE for the health personnel
- UNICEF Armenia Article: How to get children to eat healthy
- UNICEF Azerbaijan Article: Ten mental health and well-being tips for teachers
- UNICEF Belarus on Twitter: Your Guide to Safe Breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina: Conference on the importance of social entrepreneurship for vulnerable social groups
- UNICEF Bulgaria on Facebook: COVID-19 measures to follow outside
- UNICEF Croatia on Facebook: Calling on mothers to donate their milk, this is highly important during the COVID pandemic
- UNICEF Georgia on Facebook: Meeting with the Young people in Svaneti to discuss the digital divide
- UNICEF Kazakhstan Article: My First COVID Patient was 11 Months Old
UNICEF Kosovo* on Youtube: Interest of decision makers in ECD
UNICEF Moldova on Youtube: UNICEF and USAID donated hygiene supplies
UNICEF Montenegro Article: Child poverty reduction starts with quality early childhood development
UNICEF North Macedonia Press Release: Schools getting ready to reopen in September improving capacities for WASH
UNICEF Romania Article: The courage to move on
UNICEF Serbia Article: Children make the best music when playing together
UNICEF Turkey Article: The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme
UNICEF Turkmenistan Article: #WithMyChild campaign engages young parents across Turkmenistan
UNICEF Ukraine: EPAM Systems and UNICEF launch new IT training for young people with disabilities on modern IT profession
UNICEF Uzbekistan Article: A breath of life: Kholida’s story

Next SitRep: 15 January 2022

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### Annex A: Summary of selected program Results (Jan to June 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Response</th>
<th>2021 Target</th>
<th>Total UNICEF Results</th>
<th>Increase from the last SitRep</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EC-01 - ECAR – Nutrition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months reached with messages and counselling on IYCF</td>
<td>552,500</td>
<td>803,667&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 96,018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EC-02 - ECAR – Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)</td>
<td>24,550</td>
<td>18,474</td>
<td>▲ 4,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities</td>
<td>341,600</td>
<td>260,983</td>
<td>▲ 32,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of children vaccinated against measles</td>
<td>476,315</td>
<td>385,004</td>
<td>▲ 17,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of caregivers and frontline professionals (healthcare, social workers, teachers) provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>400,333</td>
<td>22,551&lt;sup&gt;11&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 4,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC-03 - ECAR - Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>776,000</td>
<td>464,347</td>
<td>▲ 26,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces</td>
<td>1,515,330</td>
<td>126,474&lt;sup&gt;12&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 3,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC-04 - ECAR – Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning</td>
<td>7,317,644</td>
<td>2,750,957</td>
<td>▲ 11,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)</td>
<td>17,566</td>
<td>10,046</td>
<td>▲ 6,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of teachers trained in delivering digital, distance, and blended learning</td>
<td>140,959</td>
<td>186,787&lt;sup&gt;13&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 22,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counseling and/or parent support</td>
<td>296,000</td>
<td>753,226&lt;sup&gt;14&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 47,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC-05 - ECAR - Child Protection, GBViE &amp; PSEA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>700,350</td>
<td>622,211</td>
<td>▲ 40,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions</td>
<td>106,400</td>
<td>18,373</td>
<td>▲ 3,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>27,857</td>
<td>8,189</td>
<td>▲ 3,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>1,119,363</td>
<td>1,054,130</td>
<td>▲ 1,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC-06 - ECAR - Social Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of # households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors</td>
<td>10,500&lt;sup&gt;15&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,949</td>
<td>▲ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support</td>
<td>124,200&lt;sup&gt;16&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>561,879</td>
<td>▲ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC-07 - ECAR - Communication for Development (C4D)/Community Engagement/Accountability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of people reached through messaging on access to services. (ECAR)</td>
<td>18,310,769</td>
<td>34,467,285&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>▲ 7,077,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)</td>
<td>1,081,500</td>
<td>533,704</td>
<td>▲ 131,474</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>10</sup> Target overachieved due to IYCF advocacy campaign in Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and which covered a vast number of caregivers.

<sup>11</sup> Target underachieved due to Implementations starting in quarter two.

<sup>12</sup> While some activities recently started and are in progress, target underachieved due to funding gaps remain in WASH supplies and services in schools.

<sup>13</sup> While some overreaching is due to underestimated targets, significant achievements are due to some countries providing training provision through online modalities.

<sup>14</sup> Target overachieved due to significant coverage with social media messaging in Georgia during Positive Parenting campaign.

<sup>15</sup> No progress in Q3 due to the unavailability of funding.

<sup>16</sup> No progress in Q3. Target overachieved and UNICEF is focusing on policy advocacy and technical support to strengthen existing social protection system.

<sup>17</sup> Significant achievements due to online platforms boosting messaging.
# Annex B: Funding status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total Requirements</th>
<th>Humanitarian funds</th>
<th>Other resources</th>
<th>Carry-forward</th>
<th>Funding Gap (US$)</th>
<th>Funding Gap (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1.380.000</td>
<td>37.800</td>
<td>42.800</td>
<td>16.000</td>
<td>1.283.400</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>14.425.000</td>
<td>2.495.362</td>
<td>6.335.752</td>
<td>2.353.911</td>
<td>3.239.974</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>11.699.000</td>
<td>1.822.890</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>414.289</td>
<td>9.461.822</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PSEA</td>
<td>8.839.000</td>
<td>770.564</td>
<td>872.840</td>
<td>693.004</td>
<td>6.502.592</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10.033.000</td>
<td>486.813</td>
<td>492.127</td>
<td>2.315.302</td>
<td>6.738.759</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>7.767.000</td>
<td>655.357</td>
<td>2.927.913</td>
<td>1.048.971</td>
<td>3.134.759</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>10.168.750</td>
<td>92.534</td>
<td>137.710</td>
<td>847.543</td>
<td>9.090.963</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness, Response and DRR</td>
<td>7.110.000</td>
<td>9.303.693</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>650.358</td>
<td>-2.844.051</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO Technical Support</td>
<td>550.000</td>
<td>171.145</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>261.293</td>
<td>117.562</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>71.971.750</td>
<td>15.836.156</td>
<td>10.809.142</td>
<td>8.600.671</td>
<td>36.725.780</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>