HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori visited UNICEF Georgia programme and met with programme partners, stakeholders and allies – please see MONTHLY FOCUS on page 5.

- Together with the GeoStat, UNICEF completed data collection for the fifth wave of the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) Survey and released the data on 1 December.

- UNICEF concluded a 3-month joint campaign with the MoIDPOTLHSA, the MoES and NCDC aimed at vaccination of teachers across the country. More than 1500 were vaccinated as part of the campaign, thereby increasing the rate of teachers’ vaccination from 9 to more than 70 per cent.

- UNICEF continues to raise awareness on the harms of gambling and gaming among children. In his video address UNICEF Representative spoke about a growing concern of gambling, and the importance of strengthening evidence-based policies and prevention strategies.

- The Public Defender’s Office, with UNICEF’s suport, completed a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19, carried out under the initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC).

- On November 20, UNICEF Georgia celebrated the World Children's Day and the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by organising a kids take over event at Public School #3 in Borjomi and online, by giving kids access to its social media platforms.

- UNICEF Georgia joined the global UNICEF 75 anniversary, celebrating it with the national teachers’ conference aimed at sharing digital educational resources to ensure inclusive and quality education for all children in Georgia.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed cases (6.58% 14-day positivity rate)</th>
<th>Confirmed deaths</th>
<th>Child (&lt;18 years) cases</th>
<th>Boys: 42,371 and Girls: 40,174</th>
<th>Confirmed cases – 37,147</th>
<th>Confirmed deaths – 551</th>
<th>UNICEF funding gap (US$1,176,148)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>916,477</td>
<td>13,221</td>
<td>82,545</td>
<td>Abkhazia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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 provision of information about vaccination and debunking the misinformation through multimedia storytelling and media engagement.

- The renewed partnership between USAID/Georgia and UNICEF to support the Government of Georgia in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was covered in traditional and social media. The project is built on the achievements of the previous partnership and is aimed to support the GoG in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and minimising the impact of the pandemic.

- UNICEF concluded a 3-month joint campaign with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoIDPOTLHSA), the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MoES) and the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) aimed at vaccination of teachers across the country. UNICEF organised information sessions for teachers in all regions of Georgia, where prominent health experts met with teachers to provide them with information on COVID-19 vaccination and answered their questions. After the meeting, teachers were given an opportunity to get vaccinated against COVID-19. More than 1500 were vaccinated as part of the campaign. With support of the campaign, the rate of teachers’ vaccination rose from 9 to more than 70 per cent.

- Nurses in eight regions of Georgia continue to participate in the information sessions on COVID-19 vaccination, organised by UNICEF in partnership with the Nursing Association Numane. During these information sessions, nurses receive answers on
UNICEF, with the support of USAID/Georgia and in partnership with the Association of Immunisation and Vaccinology (AIVA), continues to engage students from medical faculties from five different universities in Georgia in a 6-month campaign to share information on and to promote the COVID-19 vaccination programme. An info session was organised in Batumi, gathering students from Batumi State University and the Batumi International University. UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori and UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil met with students in Batumi and had a discussion on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.

UNICEF continues to raise awareness on the harms of gambling and gaming among children and adolescents. In his video address UNICEF Representative spoke about a growing concern of gambling, and the importance of strengthening evidence-based policies and prevention strategies.

Teachers from 15 pilot schools of Georgia, who participated in the series of trainings in Estonia under the joint programme of UNICEF, the Estonian Government and the Ministry of Education and Science now share their knowledge and experience with their colleagues from other schools. Teachers who participated in the session – as trainers and trainees – told us how peer to peer learning helps them to implement new, innovative methods of teaching.

A feature story about one teenager in Zestaponi highlights how a new programme designed by UNICEF in partnership with Georgian education authorities and Bulgarian Development Cooperation, supports reintegration of out-of-school children in the mainstream education system.

Four schools of Imereti region and a school in Velistsikhe, Kakethi were awarded with laptops and projectors for initiating projects aimed at raising awareness about child rights. These schools participated in the contest of projects, held under the 2nd International Conference "Incorporation of Child Rights into University Curricula”. The children and teachers of the schools presented their projects to UNICEF Representative Ghassan Khalil.

Child Right Centres created by UNICEF in State Universities across Georgia begin to raise awareness on different aspects of the rights of the child. The CR centre at Akaki Tsereteli State University organised training sessions for school teachers on the main principles of inclusive education, so they can apply this it into the practice. Trainings were organised by UNICEF in partnership with Akaki Tsereteli State University with the support from the Norwegian Government.

UNICEF Georgia celebrated the World Children's Day and the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by organising a kids take over event at Public School #3 in Borjomi and online, by giving kids access to its social media platforms. At the school students took over the school serving as a principal, teachers and security resource officers for one day. UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil met with children and engaged in the discussion about child rights, inclusion in the process of decision-making and the experience they gained today during the event when they were managing the school processes. In parralel, children from different parts of Georgia – Svaneti, mountainous Adjara, Pankisi used UNICEF social media platforms to raise awareness about the issues they find the most pressing – digital divide, access to quality education, child’s right to development were among the topics.

On World Children’s Day, UNICEF highlighted the challenges the children with disabilities face, especially in the regions of Georgia by visiting the children in the local daycare centre for the people with disabilities in Borjomi.

UNICEF Georgia joined the global UNICEF 75 anniversary, celebrating it with the national teachers’ conference aimed at sharing digital educational resources to ensure inclusive and quality education for all children in Georgia.

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

UNICEF continues to support the Government of Georgia in creating a safe learning environment for children, teachers and school administrators throughout the country.

UNICEF continues its partnership with Global Initiative on Psychiatry-Tbilisi (GIP-T) to support adolescent mental health as they return to school during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Within the framework of this partnership, peer educators have been trained by the experts of psychosocial service centre Synergy-Tbilisi; as well as trainings were conducted for 1100 school children in Tbilisi, Batumi and Adjara high mountainous villages. The peer educators continued peer-to-peer discussions with their peers on mental health and mechanisms for emotional regulations and stress management.

UNICEF continues partnership with the organisation of Adjara Scouts movement to engage adolescents from Adjara highlands in shaping initiatives to promote hygiene for COVID-19 pandemic prevention. 300 adolescents from various villages of Adjara participated in online trainings led by the epidemiologists of Batumi Public Health Centre.
UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori, together with UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr. Ghassan Khalil met with the peer educators and had a discussion on adolescents’ psycho-social issues, which is UNICEF’s initiative together with its partner organisation “Global Initiative on Psychiatry”. UNICEF’s Deputy Regional Director and UNICEF Georgia’s Representative also met with the scouts of Adjara to see the joint hygiene promotion initiatives aimed at preventing the COVID-19 pandemic, funded by USAID/Georgia.

UNICEF’s Deputy RD and UNICEF Representative meeting with young people at Scouts’ Movement in Adjara

UNICEF’s Deputy RD and UNICEF Representative meeting with peer educators on adolescents’ psycho-social issues at Batumi State University

UNICEF’s partner NGO ‘Gambling Research and Ludomania Prevention Center’ (GRAPC) continued face-to-face trainings of adolescents on gambling risks and its consequences. To date, 800 school students from selected schools from 10 cities participated in face-to-face training sessions focusing on the risk factors and consequences of gambling.

Together with MoES, UNICEF completed the project “Development of the Socio-Emotional Skills among Georgia Adolescents” to improve the knowledge of 11-12 grade schoolchildren in various social and psycho-emotional issues, scale up their resilience and prepare them for real-life challenges, including current COVID-19 crisis and the post-crisis period.

CHILD PROTECTION

- The Public Defender's Office, with UNICEF’s suport, completed a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19, carried out under the initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC). A public launch of the report to a wider audience will be held in January 2022.
- UNICEF held several workshops / training meetings for up to 40 civil law mediators of the Georgian Association of Mediators on the psychological issues related to children.
- UNICEF signed a Grant Agreement with the Training Center of Justice (TCJ) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (MoJ) to implement the project “Training Programme on Specialisation of Professionals.” Within the framework of the project, a 3-days training was held in Juvenile Justice for probation officers and psychologists of the Crime Prevention and Probation Agency of the MoJ; and three 3-days trainings for different groups were held on child rights for the staff of the State Service Development Agency of the MoJ.
- On 17 December The Parliament of Georgia and UNICEF sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation between the parties for advancement of child rights in Georgia. The cooperation will also contribute to improving parliamentary oversight on the implementation of the Code on the Rights of the Child and other related laws, and enhancing children’s participation in decision-making processes. The two-year Memorandum was signed by the Deputy Chair of the Parliament, Chair of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Child Rights Protection, David Sergeenko and UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil. UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori attended the event as part of his official mission to Georgia.
- UNICEF continues cooperation with the religious denominations to increase their participation in child rights protection. Within the UNICEF-Estonian partnership framework, a training addressing a "National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Investigative Interview Protocol" started for 11 investigators and 4 employees of the Integrated Service
UNICEF continues to support MoIDPOTLHSA and the State Care Agency in partnership with the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW) in the deinstitutionalisation process. A multidisciplinary team of social workers and psychologists provided initial assessment and crisis intervention to children who left the Ninostminda boarding school.

- Training on the concept of integrated service and standard operating procedures was conducted for 65 professionals employed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, State Care Agency, Samkharauli Examination Bureau, and the State Inspector.
- A draft Concept of a National Child Helpline on Violence Against Children as a safe and accessible channel for children to report violence, seek help and get immediate counselling was developed under the joint EU-UNICEF project on strengthening systems and services for child protection in Georgia.
- UNICEF continues supporting the State Care Agency to strengthen the quality of social work through strengthening and institutionalising case management, supervision, specialisation models for social workers, as well as formulation of suicide prevention protocol and instruments. UNICEF, together with Columbia University, is adapting the training module for the social service workforce on interpersonal communication and community engagement.
- UNICEF continues supporting MoIDPOTLHSA to expand the biopsychosocial model of disability assessment and status determination system together with the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW). Around 250 people were assessed through the targeted pilot of the biopsychosocial model of disability assessment and status determination system in 6 health facilities.

**SOCIAL PROTECTION**

- UNICEF, in partnership with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALA), has launched a new project to support municipalities to develop needs-based child-centred social programmes. The 18-months initiative will support municipalities to assess local social needs, transform them into social programmes and monitor their efficiency together with local authorities.
- On 6 December, a meeting of the Disability Advisory Committee in the frame of the UN joint project “Transformation of Social Protection System for Persons with Disabilities” took place. The Committee comprised of persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities supports UNICEF’s actions in transforming disability assessment system and optimizing social protection measures for CWD. The meeting was dedicated to review proposed actions and instruments to transform the system of assessment.
- UNICEF published a global publication “Being Prepared and Acting First: A series of case studies on UNICEF’s role in the delivery of effective social protection responses to COVID-19”. The publication includes Georgia’s case study “Enhancing the social protection system through a child poverty analysis and systems readiness assessment”, which acknowledges the action undertaken by the government with UNICEF’s support to support Georgian households affected by COVID-19. The publication can be found on the following link: [https://www.unicef.org/media/110761/file/Georgia-Case%20Study-Being-Prepared-Acting-First-2021.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/110761/file/Georgia-Case%20Study-Being-Prepared-Acting-First-2021.pdf)
- UNICEF, in collaboration with the GeoStat, completed data collection for the fifth wave of the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) Survey. Data processing and analyses were conducted in November and the corresponding data was released on 1 December.
- All preparatory work for the sixth wave of RTM, including the development of the questionnaire and training of field personnel, has been completed and data collection has started. The survey will collect data on self-protection measures against COVID-19 and attitude towards COVID-19 vaccination, access to healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene.
EDUCATION

- UNICEF continues supporting nine state universities in developing Bachelor’s (BA) programmes for prospective preschool educators. During the past month, university professors participated in the thematic training sessions on: (i) child rights in early childhood education, and (ii) bilingual and multilingual early childhood education. Each university received individual support for finalising BA programmes and course syllabi by a leading international ECE specialist.

- Within the trilateral partnership project of UNICEF, Estonia and Georgia on improving the quality of general education and sharing Estonian best practices to 100 schools in Georgia, a series of trainings of elementary school teachers and principals of 100 schools were conducted by Estonian and Georgian experts with 600 participants. The developed training module has been accepted by the MoES for further use in New School Model reform of general education.

- Estonian and Georgian experts conducted a series of presentations of new curriculum for upper-secondary school, developed in the framework of UNICEF-Estonia-Georgia partnership. Presentations were conducted in Kachreti for Educational Resource Centres of the MoES, where Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia H.E. Riina Käijurand and UNICEF Representative to Georgia Dr. Ghassan Khalil welcomed participants and discussed the importance of modern curriculum in supporting quality education. In addition, presentations of new curriculum were held in Tbilisi and Batumi for schoolteachers and principals.

- On 1 December 2021, Ms. Eka Dgebuadze, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Mr. Iliya Nachev, Charge d’affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia, Mr. Marko Soldic, Deputy Head of Mission (DHM), Embassy of Norway in Georgia, and Dr. Ghassan Khalil, UNICEF Representative in Georgia visited a public school No. 17 in Rustavi. They met with the schoolteachers, leaders, students and parents to get a first-hand understanding of the progress made in the development of educational innovations promoted by the partnership programmes to support inclusive and second chance education. The Government of Bulgaria provides support for the implementation of a two-year trilateral partnership programme on Technical Assistance to the development of national Second Chance Education programme for children’s successful learning outcomes. The Government of Norway supports capacity development of academic staff of nine state universities of Georgia in inclusive education.

MONTHLY FOCUS: Visit of the UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori to Georgia.

UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Cori visited Georgia on 13-17 December. During his visit, the Deputy RD, together with UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil met with various partners, decion makers, stakeholders and allies.

As part of the week-long visit, the Deputy RD met with the Government of Georgia officials and decision makers. The Deputy RD, met with the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Mr. Mikheil Chkhikhenkeli. The parties reiterated the successful
partnership between UNICEF and the Ministry and emphasised the importance of future collaboration, including on school nutrition.

The Deputy RD and UNICEF Representative also met with the Chair of the Government of Adjara Autonomous Republic, Tornike Rijvadze as well as the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara AR Maya Khajishvili and discussed the important role of UNICEF in supporting accessibility and quality of preschool and general education as well as Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University to prepare future preschool and general education teachers and incorporate child rights into educational programmes and curricula.

Deputy Regional Director Philippe Cori also met with the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration, Mikheil Sarjveladze, and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament, Chair of the Permanent Council on Child Rights David Sergeenko. Code on the Rights of the Child and steps for its effective implementation as well as the role of the Parliament in protecting child rights were discussed at the meeting.

The Deputy RD and UNICEF Representative also participated in the presentation of the activities 2021 of the Child Rights Centre of Akaki Tsereteli State University, conducted in newly renovated Child Rights Centre venue in the building of university. The CR Centre prepared educational resources for students and school communities on child rights, conducted trainings, workshops and shared their knowledge to other six regional universities of Georgia where Child Rights Centres established in 2021.

The Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia H.E. Riina Kaljurand, Deputy Regional Director, Philippe Cori and UNICEF Representative to Georgia Dr. Ghassan Khalil visited Zestaponi public school No. 4 to meet teachers and students and discuss how participating in UNICEF-Estonia-Georgia programme during 2017-2019 reflected on the quality of education and school environment and what are further needs of school to continue improvement of the quality of education.

During his visit to Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the Deputy RD also met with young people at Scouts’ Movement of Adjara to learn more about UNICEF’s ongoing partnership to educate communities on COVID-19 prevention measures. UNICEF delegation also met with peer educators in Adjara and discussed ongoing project on adolescents’ mental health, the issue of access for all children and adolescents to prevention and response services to ensure their psychosocial well-being.
On the last day of his visit, 17 December, the Deputy RD had a meeting at the Patriarchate of Georgia. The discussion covered main directions of the cooperation between UNICEF and Patriarchate, the role of the religious leaders in promoting and protecting children’s rights, capacity building of orthodox priests, vaccination, deinstitutionalisation, prevention of gambling among adolescents. UNICEF presented preliminary findings of the study on gambling. While in Adjara, UNICEF Representative and Deputy RD also met with Mufti of Muslims of all Adam Shantadze, with whom UNICEF has strong partnership to promote child rights in the communities and help children and their families.

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>3,019,245</td>
<td>-2,219,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>65,397</td>
<td>104,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>402,750</td>
<td>564,256</td>
<td>-161,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>2,472,750</td>
<td>3,648,898</td>
<td>-1,176,148</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.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghassan Khalil</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>+995 591 225 281, <a href="mailto:gkhalil@unicef.org">gkhalil@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Clancy</td>
<td>Deputy Representative</td>
<td>+995 551 548 170, <a href="mailto:aclancy@unicef.org">aclancy@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya Kurtsikidze</td>
<td>Communications Officer</td>
<td>+995 599 533 071, <a href="mailto:mkurtsikidze@unicef.org">mkurtsikidze@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thea Jamaspishvili</td>
<td>Field Associate</td>
<td>+995 599 166 773, <a href="mailto:tjamaspishvili@unicef.org">tjamaspishvili@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>