



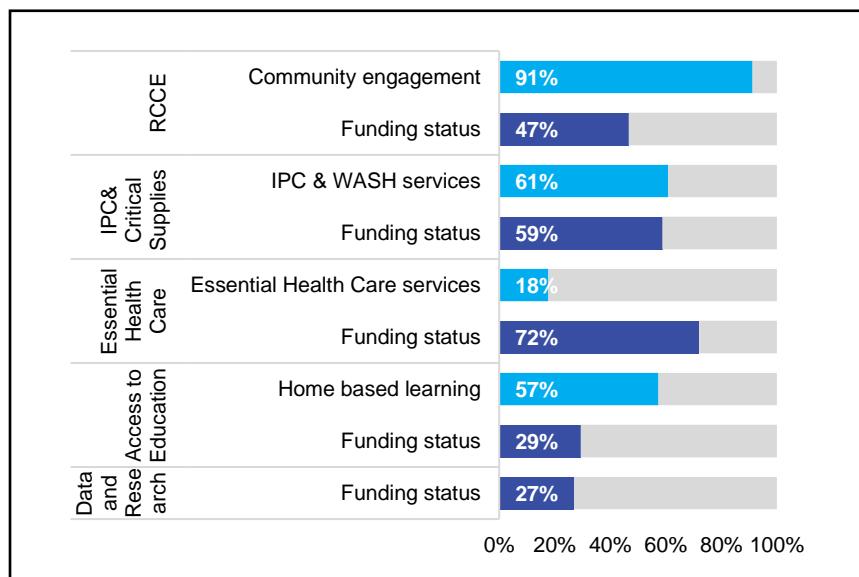
Reporting Period: June 11- 25, 2020

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Highlights

- South Asia region experienced a significant spike with a total of 322,059 new cases reported during the reporting period. This represents an increase of 63% compared to the previous period with the cumulative total reaching 833, 435 confirmed cases and 21,061 deaths
- In its report ‘Lives Upended’, UNICEF South Asia has warned that without urgent action the lives of 600 million children in the region are at risk as the Corona virus and its socio-economic impact threatens to wipe out decades of development gains on children’s health, education and other priorities secured over the past 25 years and futures are uncertain to reach full potential.
- An estimated 115,000 health workers (41% of target) have benefitted from the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs). With the increasing rates of health workers getting infected the PPEs are critical in protecting them to ensure continued services.
- A total of 600,000 people including children, parents and care givers (49% of the target) have received community based mental health and psychosocial support services from UNICEF and partners
- UNICEF and partners in the region have engaged an estimated 94 million people (91% of the target) have been engaged through risk communication and community engagement using various platforms and networks across the region.
- A total of 14 million people (61% of the target) with critical WASH services and supplies as part of infection prevention control with 3 million people reached during the reporting period.
- An estimated 2 million health care providers (88% of target) have been trained to detect, refer and manage COVID-19 cases in children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Similarly, in collaboration with government and partners, UNICEF has reached 7.8 million women and children with essential health care services including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care,

UNICEF’s Response Budget in South Asia



UNICEF in South Asia

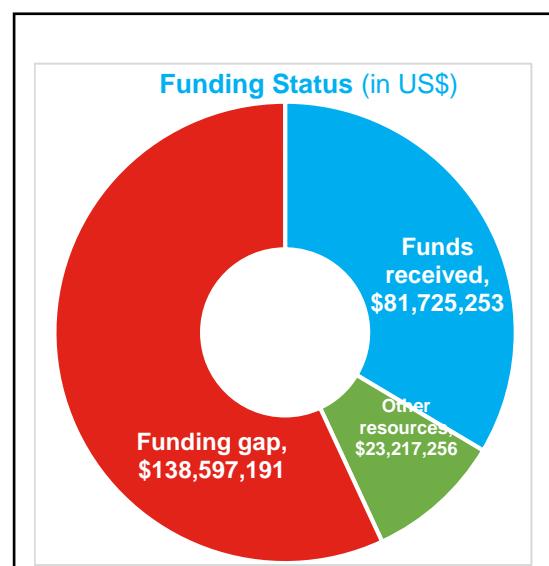
COVID-19 Situation Report No.14

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Situation in Numbers

	322,059	No. of new cases over the past week (SAARC DMC June 26, 2020)
	833,435	Total cases of COVID-19 (SAARC DMC June 26, 2020)
	1,000,000,000	# of targeted population to be reached with risk messages by UNICEF response (ROSA Response Plan 2020)
	94,000,000	# of targeted children to be reached with home learning (UNICEF 2020)

UNICEF Appeal 2020 For South Asia US\$ 243.5 million

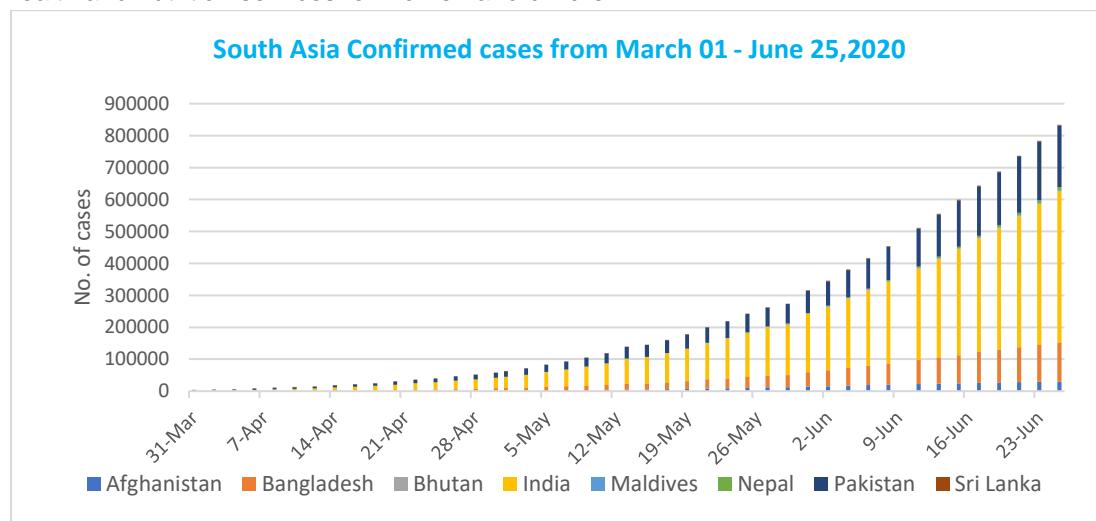


Funding Overview and Partnerships

As part of a Global COVID-19 Appeal, UNICEF South Asia appeal stands at US\$ 243.5 million to support government efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through provision of critical supplies and ensuring continuous access to essential health services and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. This appeal is in line with the escalating needs due to the spread of COVID-19 in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received \$81.7 million from the Asia Development Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CERF, CIDA, DFAT, DFID, Facebook Foundation, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Government of Denmark, Government of Finland, Government of Germany (KFW), Government of Japan, London Stock Exchange, World Bank, UN Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered Bank, Government of Sweden (SIDA), Unilever and Government of USA (USAID). In this COVID-19 response, partnership with IFIs has substantially expanded, with all country offices in the region benefitting from the generous contribution of the Banks to support government responses. In view of the worsening situation, additional funding is still urgently required to support government, communities and children to scale up intervention for preparedness and response to stop the spread of the virus and support government service delivery system and respond to social impacts of the pandemic which threaten to reverse development gains.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The South Asia region experienced a significant spike in the number of new cases during the reporting period. A total of 322,059 new cases were reported over the past fortnight which represents an increase of 63% compared to the previous period. Cumulatively, the region has recorded a total of 833,435 confirmed cases and 21,061 deaths. Nepal continues to record the highest percentage increase (146%) while India reported the largest increase in absolute numbers 186,526 new cases (65% increase), Pakistan added 73,434 new cases (61% increase), Bangladesh 47,795 new cases (64% increase), Afghanistan 7,498 new cases (34% increase), Maldives 299 new cases (15% increase) and Sri Lanka 132 new cases (7% increase). With increased testing capacity and the relaxation of the lockdown measures there are concerns across the region that the cases will continue to increase particularly in high density and low capacity areas. UNICEF South Asia in its report titled *Lives Upended* (<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/lives-upended>) has warned that without urgent action the lives of 600 million children are at risk as the Corona virus and its socio-economic impact threatens to wipe out decades of development gains on children's health, education and other priorities secured over the past 25 years and impedes future outlooks for reaching their full potential. Due to pandemic mitigation measures such as lockdown and others, 430 million children are unable to attend schools and must rely on remote or homebased learning which is likely to perpetuate inequalities particularly amongst the rural populations. Girls are particularly vulnerable to lose out on learning or to experience barriers to return to school. Similarly, immunization, nutrition and other vital health services have been severely disrupted, potentially threatening the lives of up to 459,000 children and 36,000 mothers over the next six months. Therefore, UNICEF is advocating for increased investment in social protection measures to shield poorer families from the worst impacts of the looming economic recession, and continuous delivery of essential health and nutrition services for women and children.



Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps¹ and SAARC Disaster Management Centre²

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The Regional Office and Country Offices response plans have been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-19-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal. The key priority for the RO/CO response plans is on the immediate measures that must be undertaken to ensure preparedness and response actions to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in each country focusing on the following areas; (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and

¹ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

² <http://www.COVID-19-sdmc.org/>

hygiene (WASH) supplies, (3) Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services, and promoting cash transfers to address the social impact of the epidemic. Recognizing the specific impact on women, adolescents and children, the strategy includes engagement with women leaders and organizations to reach communities, and integration of measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response across sectors.

With more cases concentrated in urban centres, UNICEF is adapting its response approaches to focus on these densely populated areas with low capacity including slums. Similarly, building on UNICEF country wide networks, ongoing programs and vast network of partners, UNICEF in South Asia has stepped up its engagement in risk communication and community engagement relying on its know-how on hygiene promotion, social and behaviour change communication and experience from polio and previous epidemics, and engagement of local leaders.

Afghanistan Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- During the reporting period UNICEF reached 2,809,701 people while engaging 59,438 people on COVID-19 prevention measures. The C4D supported three TV talk shows in three provinces reached 130,000 people including women and youth (70,000 male and 60,000 female).
- A total of 1735 CPAN (Child protection action network) members and 424 religious leaders oriented on COVID reaching 20,000 and 120,000 population respectively.
- A total of 1918 community health workers, community health supervisors and mobile health and nutrition team members/counselors orientated/mobilized on COVID 19. 1400 CHWs will reach to 354,500 individuals in the community. In addition, 200 religious leaders mobilized to convey key messages on COIVD 19 in the community.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- During the reporting week, a total of 398 health care providers (281 males, and 117 females) were provided with PPEs and infection prevention and control supplies. In addition, 63 nutrition extenders and counselor extenders, 1,226 health workers, 2322 Community Health Workers (CHWs) were provided with facemask, hand sanitizer and soap across the country.
- In the past fortnight, 60 hand washing facilities were installed in 31 health care centers in Kabul, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Ghazni and Maidan Wardak provinces. In addition, 77,442 soap bars have been distributed to 3,370 IDPs in Herat province, 7,258 vulnerable families in Herat, Farah, Ghor and Badghis provinces and in 31 health care centers in Kabul, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Ghazni and Maidan Wardak provinces. In addition, 17,738 people received WASH supplies of which 13,063 people are from informal settlements in Kabul city.
- A total of 32,270 people including 25,000 returnees from Iran crossing through Islam Qala and Melak borders and from Pakistan crossing through Torkham border accessed to WASH services at border crossing points while approximately 7,270 people including staff, patients and caregivers in three hospital assigned for COVID19 treatment in western region in Heart province have benefited from WASH services during the reporting period.
- Similarly, 31,209 people in Herat and Badghis provinces have been sensitized and oriented on key hygiene messages and COVID19 prevention measures while 200 hygiene consumable kits were distributed to vulnerable families in Charbolak district of Balkh province.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management

- During the reporting period, UNICEF supported 60 mobile health and nutrition teams in 14 provinces, referred 273 COVID 19 suspected cases for testing and confirmation. A total of 1,278 (748 males, and 530 females) are oriented and trained on assessment, and referral of suspected COVID19 cases. In addition, 18,438 children under five (9,428 males, and 9010 females) are benefited from provision of basic health, nutrition, and WASH services through UNICEF. Similarly, 5,926 pregnant and lactating women received RMNCAH services (Antenatal care, post-natal care, family planning, TT vaccination, IFA supplementation, and other needed health services) through UNICEF supported 60 mobile health teams.
- The Immunization Campaign Network visited 145,271 households across the South Region on COVID-19 related engagements where 334 suspected cases of COVID-19 were referred for further investigations
- At the Health Facility level, the Female Mobilizer Vaccinators conducted 614 sessions and engaged 10,979 participants 98% of whom were females. They also referred 240 suspected cases of COVID-19 for further investigations.
- A total of 384 Community Health Supervisors from Central Region were trained on COVID 19 and training of 8351 community health worker is going on monitoring of routine and COVID 19 related activities in areas controlled by the AGEs of ER are Intensified. In addition, 400 community health workers from Kandahar city and districts within the province were oriented on COVID-19.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF implementing partners funded by ECW FER continued implementation of education COVID-19 response intervention in high-risk areas of Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Nimroz and supporting MoE to implement distance learning pathway reaching 4,391,130 children via TVs and radios across Afghanistan.
- During the reporting week, 63,483 including 29,733 children (girls: 13,919, boys: 15,814) and 33,750 community members (women: 13,468, men: 20,282) received knowledge and skill on COVID-19 as well as child protection vulnerabilities that might occur
- A total of 26,084 including 24,320 children (girls: 11,905, boys: 12,415) and 1,764 community members (women: 926, men: 838) received psychosocial support to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience and normalcy. In addition, 70 children including 44 girls identified as the most vulnerable children including 13 GBV survivors were provided with psychosocial and medical services.

Bangladesh Country Office:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF risk communication activities focus both on risks related directly to COVID-19 and those related to the knock-on effects of the pandemic on children. Last week, five million people were reached with messages on adolescent nutrition during COVID-19 through social media while a further 150,000 to 200,000 people were reached with nutrition messages through radio and mosque loudspeakers. With concerns rising around child labour, [interactive programming](#) focused on International Child Labour Day in the context of COVID-19 with national radio partner Bangladesh Betar and 14 community radio stations. Messages were also posted via [social media](#). A joint UNICEF and ILO press release was issued on [child labour](#) and was covered in 16 national newspapers.
- With the gradual reopening of the country continuing, UNICEF is increasing messaging around the use of cloth masks to prevent transmission of the virus. Posters on the use of cloth masks have been posted to Facebook and an infographic video for use on TV and social media has been drafted. Information on how to make masks at home has been drafted.
- Over the past 14 days, UNICEF Bangladesh reached 20.4 million users through social media. Highlights of COVID-19 risk communication included [mask usage](#) (5.2m reach) and [how to stay safe while using public transportation](#) (2.3m). Rumours and misinformation remain a major challenge: 24 posts with misinformation with the highest reach were reported to Facebook for removal. Meanwhile, UNICEF also communicated on the knock-on effects of the pandemic: [ensuring children's routine immunization](#) (5.8m reach); [girls at greater risk of falling behind](#) on World Day Against Child Labour (4.9m reach); tips for [parents during lockdown](#) (6m reach); and [good infant nutrition practices](#) during COVID-19 (3.9m). Three episodes of UNICEF LIVE "Adda" ask-the-expert looked at [immunization advice](#), [adolescent mental health](#) and [violence against children and adolescents](#).
- Ninety per cent of participants in focus group discussions in Rohingya camps and host communities confirmed that they had received COVID-19 messages and 25 per cent requested more information on prevention, isolation and quarantine. Thirty-three focus group discussions were held with religious leaders, Mahjis, adolescents and women in the camps (25) and host community (8). During the reporting period, 90,000 people in the camps received messages through mosque loudspeakers and 85,014 people (40,728 female) in the camps and host communities were reached through interpersonal communication. Radio programming, adolescent radio listener clubs, advocacy meetings and religious study groups also continued.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- UNICEF in collaboration with Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology provided supported the government to develop a sector-wide strategy '[Bangladesh Strategic Paper to Respond to WASH issues during and after the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)'
- To date, DPHE has ensured an uninterrupted water supply across the country for 5.7 million people during the COVID-19 period with support from UNICEF (out of a target of 10 million to be met by September 2020).
- UNICEF and partners are increasingly relying on trained Rohingya community-based volunteers to support the provision safe water, sanitation and hygiene for 240,000 Rohingya refugees as access to the camps is becoming increasingly difficult. This role often falls to women: 8,297 mothers and caregivers have been involved in the response during the reporting period, utilizing their expertise and leadership as change agents to promote strong hygiene and physical distancing measures.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- In May 2020, 48 per cent fewer children under one year of age received their third dose of pentavalent vaccine than in previous years, leaving tens of thousands of children un- or under-vaccinated against deadly diseases. Immunization activities are gradually gaining momentum, improving 18 per cent from April to May 2020 due in part to new guidelines for continuing service provision and confidence building within communities. UNICEF has been working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to spread awareness on the importance of vaccination during

this pandemic. UNICEF is also monitoring the vaccine supply and helping to ensure an uninterrupted supply of all vaccines and operation of the cold chain. The Mumps and Rubella Campaign for children aged 9 months to 10 years, originally scheduled planned for March 2020 has been shifted to November 2020.

- After a reduction in admissions for the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of nearly 90 per cent, the decline is beginning to reverse. UNICEF, through Zonal Nutrition Officers and District Nutrition Coordinators, has followed up with Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and nutrition corners and SAM inpatient facilities to prevent any further decline in screening and SAM admissions, including ensuring the availability of supplies. As a result of this engagement, the number of facilities carrying out screening has increased from 31 to 39 per cent from April to May. SAM admissions have doubled: In April, only 6 per cent of children identified with SAM during screening were admitted for treatment whereas in May the admission rate increased to 11 per cent.
- During May to June 2020, over 9.3 million people in the Jamalpur, Sherpur and Tangail Districts of Mymensingh, and Barisal, Rangpur and Khulna Divisions were reached with messages on breastfeeding, complementary feeding including breast milk substitutes, maternal nutrition and adult nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19.
- In Cox Bazaar, only 38,150 (20 per cent) have been provided with health care, about half as many as should have been seen, with a decrease in use seen across services. Based on feedback to date, refugees are not seeking health care except where really necessary. Key bottlenecks include reduced staff leading to long wait times and the fear of catching COVID-19.
- Treatment for Rohingya children with SAM is also below target, with 1,809 of the targeted 8,000 children (23 per cent) admitted. However, access to treatment is now increasing. During the reporting period, 3,090 children (1,735 female) were referred to the 27 UNICEF-supported integrated nutrition facilities for treatment. UNICEF and partners have trained 14,391 mothers on screening; increased from 194 to 437 Rohingya nutrition outreach volunteers; and updated admissions criteria for early detection of malnutrition. This has resulted in an increase from 40,967 children screened in April to 62,008 in May. This active case finding helped identify the 478 children (331 female) who were admitted for SAM treatment in camps during this reporting period, more than twice as many as the 139 children admitted during the first two weeks of March.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- As of 18 June, 2020, the [41.89 million students](#) in Bangladesh had lost 19 per cent of their annual school days (44 out of 229 in a year). To minimize and recover the learning loss, UNICEF is working with Ministry of Education to support learning engagement through TV, radio, mobile phone and internet. According to UNICEF estimates, 60 percent out of 41.89 million students have access to remote learning.
- Expanding of coverage, especially for the marginalized students, remains a challenge. To improve access, all recorded classes are uploaded in Ministry's portals: They are used by teachers at the local level who are calling to follow up with marginalized children.
- Before COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated 45 million children (MICS 2019) in Bangladesh were experiencing violence. Violence has now increased by 31 per cent due to pandemic, according to a study by the [Manusher Jonno Foundation](#). UNICEF-supported case management and follow-up activities reached 212,627 children from March to June. Meanwhile, UNICEF helped provide psychosocial support for 53,367 children (20,160 girls, 260 children with disabilities), and 14,916 parents (6,332 female) and the Child Helpline reached 59,819 children during the reporting period. With the continued lockdown and school closures, there is need for more case management services to reach the concerned vulnerable families. This growing wave of violence is also increasing the demand on social workers to provide services despite the risk of COVID-19.
- In Cox Bazaar, Child Protection services in Cox's Bazar are being increasingly constrained by movement restrictions related to the red zone declarations; households rejecting home visits due to fear of COVID-19; and beneficiary fatigue with COVID-19-related messaging. Despite this, during this reporting period, psychosocial support was provided 13,181 beneficiaries (6,076 females, 2 per cent with disabilities) in camps and 3,981 beneficiaries (1,897 females, 8 per cent with disabilities) in host communities.

Bhutan Country Office:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- In terms of engagement, 17,166 influential persons and volunteers (local leaders, district health officials, school principals, health coordinators, Desuung volunteers, religious persons, youth volunteers, scout leaders, CSOs and private sector volunteers) were mobilized to reach approximately 390,000 people with messages on COVID-19 prevention and containment and access to services.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF facilitated the training of 600 youth volunteers (250 female) including, Youth Service Center Managers, Scouts leaders, Community Based Support Service volunteers on COVID-19 prevention advisories, interpersonal communication skills, use of social media, mental health, GBV, domestic violence and child protection issues. These volunteers have committed to reach family members, neighbors and peer in their own locality to discuss issues and on seeking services.

- Since the campaign #COVDI19STORIES was launched on April 9, the CO has posted more than 100 stories from children as young as eight years old, young people and adults. The campaign has received more than 300 stories and videos from young people from across the country and abroad out of which 150 stories were received from children (18 and below). The campaign provides an opportunity for children and young people to advocate for and share prevention messages on COVID-19.

[Improve Infection and Prevention Control \(IPC\) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\) supplies](#)

- Critical medical supplies for COVID-19 responses were handed over to the Ministry of Health jointly by UNICEF and ADB Country Representatives on 19 June. These include two mobile polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines with 4,800 testing kits, 20,000 coveralls, 8,400 face shields, 105,000 surgical masks, 100 handheld thermometers, 500 hand sanitizers, 480 waste bins for health facilities, 500 buckets for health care waste management and 50,000 bars of soap. The shipment has been significantly delayed because of the logistical challenges due to border closures and suspension of commercial flights. In addition, a total of 5,000 COVID-19 testing kits are being shipped and expected to arrive in-country in mid-June 2020, while the remaining PPE items are anticipated to arrive in-country by the end of June 2020

[Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence \(GBV\) services](#)

- The government has announced the phase-in approach to resumption of classes for grades 10 and 12 from 1st July. For those at university level, final year students will attend face to face classes but students in lower grades will continue with online classes. Therefore, with UNICEF support The Ministry of Education is in the process of finalizing the Safe Schools Guidelines and protocol for school reopening.
- To support homebased learning and promote COVID prevention practices, an ECCD parenting booklet and handwashing soaps were distributed to 9,188 ECCD children (4,602 girls) across all 20 districts.
- In terms of access to service, 306 children (168 girls) and 154 adults (84 female) have been referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided with counselling services through the Sherig Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Around 600 young people across 20 districts are equipped with knowledge, skills, confidence and attitude to learn safely with digital tools. The virtual training was organized from 30 May to 20 June by the six center managers with the support from the Department of Youth and Sports and UNICEF.

[India Country Office:](#)

[Risk Communication and Community Engagement](#)

- Close to 38 million people were reached on COVID-19 prevention and access to services, while over 19 million engaged through digital and non-digital platforms. Feedback mechanisms for two-way communication have been enabled and to date 1,812,391 people regularly shared concerns and sought clarifications on COVID-19.
- Together with the Ministry of Health and the WHO, UNICEF has built the capacity of more than 300 CSOs and 542,180 youth network members of National Service Schemes to reach the communities with COVID-19 specific and sensitive behaviors. National partnerships with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to improve routine immunization and RMNCHA services is reaching 59 districts across the 14 states.
- UNICEF mentions in media around COVID-19 were **342 million** and non-UNICEF mentions on COVID-19 related stories on women and children were **203 million** between 9-22 June 2020. Social media reach was **45 million** between 7-20 June and is estimated at more than **one billion** for the life of the campaign.
- UNICEF continues providing technical inputs and handholding support to the government in planning, capacity building, and implementation of COVID-19 RCCE activities reaching **24.4 million** people in the process. Context-specific messages were developed for different social media platforms, radio, TV along with print materials for wider dissemination. Media partnership with English and local media has been expanded. Statewide real-monitoring systems (using Rapid Pro) was rolled out to collect direct feedback from affected communities and migrants in UP and Maharashtra.

[Improve Infection and Prevention Control \(IPC\) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\) supplies](#)

- UNICEF continued supporting most vulnerable communities affected or at risk of COVID with WASH supplies and services across states, reaching an estimated 1.9 million beneficiaries. Supplies included masks, sanitizers, soaps, etc. UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance focused on developing partnerships with corporates like HUL and RSPL, boosting the provision of critical WASH supplies for states.
- Thermal scanners for airports procured with support from ADB have reached India and will be installed across selected airports of the country in the latter part of June. As part of urban support strategy, 800,000 triple layered

masks were supplied through partners to Sion Hospital which caters to world's largest slum Dharavi, 650,000 to Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and 150,000 to Bengaluru.

- 248,307 people were trained on IPC and WASH, including urban sanitary inspectors from Maharashtra; teachers from Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and UP; caregivers in Bihar and urban slums in Maharashtra; adolescents in Assam and Odisha; frontline workers in quarantine centers in Jharkhand; NGO members in West Bengal; and PRI members in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and in West Bengal.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- In almost all the states, UNICEF continues to support in ensuring continuity of essential RMNCHA services; in Madhya Pradesh, UNICEF provided technical assistance for development of Facility based pediatric care guidelines; In Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF assisted the States in devising guidelines for VHSND sessions for migrants, Support to Psychosocial care in COVID-19 is implemented in the states of Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka, and Maharashtra (through KEM Hospital, Mumbai)
- SMNet continued to provide support in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for contact tracing, counselling, orientation of village level alert committees.
- UNICEF in collaboration with WFP, WHO and FAO published a joint UN statement on Nutrition in the context of COVID, which has a list of six crucial domains against which concerted actions are required to support in order to maintain nutrition and food security during this crisis by stakeholders.
- New data and reports from various states as well as National level on coverage of critical nutrition services indicate initial signs of recovery, with an increasing uptake of services despite the growing numbers of COVID-19 cases as containment measures are released and services being adjusted and re-organized, although the data is limited and of limited geographic scope.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF India provides technical support to state government and partners in continuity of students learning at home benefitting around 35 million children (approximately 48% girls) in 17 states. Continued support is being provided in development of digital content for broadcasting of educational lessons in 10 states through TV, Radio and other digital mediums. Multiple pathways and outreach strategies are being developed to improve access and use of learning materials by students, especially in reaching the unreached, with the support of parents, academic coordinators, volunteers and partners. For example: In Odisha, in collaboration with Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) development department, an 'Alternate Learning and Mentorship Programme' is being rolled out to cater to the educational needs of around 600,000 ST/SC students from class II to X. In Bihar around 2,000 Head teachers of Madrasa Board are trained on learning outcomes to support continuity of students learning. In Chhattisgarh, with the support of volunteers, more than 25,000 (approximately 45% girls) children are supported in five remote districts through "Seekh" programme.
- UNICEF provides technical support in preparation of guidelines on reopening of schools in seven states. At national level, UNICEF WASH and education supported the Ministry of Human Resource Development in developing the safe school protocol. In multiple states (Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra) UNICEF oriented block officials, teachers, state/district functionaries, principals, wardens of tribal residential schools and vulnerable school children through online channels.
- UNICEF has set up a strategic partnership with Railway Protection Force (RPF), which is at the front of the first response to the reverse migration and the large-scale movements on train of migrant workers. A set of [guidelines](#) for RPF was formulated and disseminated through the training. In Bihar, one of the most affected states, UNICEF in partnership with the RPF completed three training sessions post COVID-19, benefiting 200 RPF members.
- UNICEF provided Technical support to Government of Uttar Pradesh in launching a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme (CCTS) for prevention and rehabilitation of child labour. This is in light of increased risk of child labour in the context of COVID. The CCTS will benefit about 2,000 children in the next six months.
- UNICEF reached 1,173,558 adolescents and youth with targeted information and messaging around prevention of COVID-19. In Assam, National Service Scheme (NSS) and UNICEF Assam reached 58,283 people through state-level public awareness campaign, the Thumbs-Up Assam, to increase public awareness to address stigma and discrimination associated with the misinformation on COVID-19. In Tamil Nadu, UNICEF-supported 'Take It Easy' mobile-messaging programme reached more than 78,000 students in 10 days and received voice feedback from 1500 students. In Odisha, UNICEF facilitated a Virtual Community Volunteer Network of more than 500 volunteers to reach out to 100,000 migrants, including adolescent and youth, with key COVID-19 related messages covering 190 villages.
- In the last two weeks 114 girls and 170 boys were provided with alternative care arrangements in five states. In Rajasthan, state level advocacy has ensured monthly disbursement of kinship care scheme to around 300,000 vulnerable children.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- Advocacy by UNICEF in Uttar Pradesh led to expansion of new child labour prevention cash transfer programme to include children from families of migrant workers and bundling of social protection schemes for the family of children enrolled in this scheme. In Jharkhand, monitoring mechanism for social protection benefits and services initiated in 4 blocks in West Singhbhum. Technical support by West Bengal office is resulting in continuation of enrolment of girls into conditional cash transfer program based on school enrolment.
- UNICEF coordinated Jeevan Rath 2.0 (a partner collaborated initiative), has supported over 13,000 men, women and children on the move to reach safely to their destination. In all, till 16th June, Jeevan Rath has supported 151,351 migrants. Government-NGO coordination platforms in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh continues to link migrants with Government social protection schemes. Some of the outputs include: 22,597 students receiving Mid-day meals, 86,161 families facilitated to access to Public distribution system; 24,219 farmers benefitting from PM kisan yojna; 7,257 (male-1037 female-6220) applications submitted under sponsorship (Child Protection Service); 46,731 families application for job cards; 20,381 girls application submitted under Mukhyamantri Sukanya Yojna; 21,353 number of pregnant women identified for benefits under PMMVY; 16,840 students applications submitted for attaining scholarship.

Maldives Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Based on a study conducted by Maldives National University and HPA, 94% of the respondents correctly identified symptoms of COVID-19, 90% stayed at home to reduce exposure, 85% correctly identified ways to break the transmission chain. Both MNU and HPA concluded that these figures denote the continued success of the communication and outreach efforts conducted via the multi-agency RCCE working group, including through UNICEF support.
- During the current reporting period, UNICEF and HPA reached 333,474 people via its Facebook channels (as the preferred social media channel in the country with the highest number of active users). Furthermore, 11,424 people were able to seek assistance from the government through the emergency hotline 1676 and email address.
- During the reporting period users spent an average 7.88 minutes on COVID-19 content and 574 page-views were recorded on UNICEF website. Publicly visible engagements from Facebook for UNICEF and partners were monitored and in the reporting period, and UNICEF Facebook page observed, 9,117 post reactions, 41 comments, 97 post saves, 344 post shares and 3,983 link clicks.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management

- With continued advocacy form UNICEF, key essential services are gradually opening since the ease phase of lock down came into force in mid- June. The immunization services in the greater Male' is still by appointment basis, and an estimate of 400 children were vaccinated in the past two weeks. Nutrition services such as growth monitoring in the capital is still closed. Virtual consultations continue, and face-to-face consultations for ANC / PNC and child health has resumed in hospitals. All routine services in the islands (where lock-down is not applied) continue. UNICEF continues to provide technical guidance to Health Protection Agency and Health sector on safe, alternative ways of quality essential services.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- A comprehensive Education Response Plan for COVID-19 was finalized and made publicly available with support from UNICEF and financial contribution from the GPE funds. The plan will now be utilized to mobilize both internal government as well as external resources and guide the safe return to schools as a partial reopening is due to start already as of 1st July.
- Distance learning programs resumed after the first term school holidays and is expected to reach a total of 86,000 learners across the country. Instructions for safe reopening of schools were sent to the schools with a reopening date of 1st July for all the schools in non-COVID islands. Schools in Greater Male region will resume gradually starting from secondary grades.
- UNICEF in partnership with the Maldives National University and the Asia Foundation initiated an online read-aloud programme for parents and children to promote literacy among children aged 4-10 years. The program is streamed on UNICEF's Facebook page two times a week and has thus far reached 275,058 children and parents who tuned into the Facebook page.
- Training of teacher on G-suite continued. A total of 210 teachers (132 females and 78 males) have been certified in G-suite as of date. A total of 1260 teachers are currently participating in the training. The aim is to certify a total 2,000 teachers by end of August 2020.
- UNICEF, collaborating with MRC and Ministry of Education in training teachers on psychological first aid (PFA) in preparing for the school reopening. As such, by 22nd June a total of 961 teachers from 75 schools have been

trained. The target is to equip teachers with skills and knowledge to provide immediate psychosocial support to students, with a system where students can be referred to more specialized services if necessary.

Nepal Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Under UNICEF leadership, different United Nations agencies and over thirty national and international organizations - collectively launched the #SpreadLove Campaign, calling for an end to stigma and discrimination against people, amidst the ongoing Covid-19 crisis in the country. The campaign calls on everyone to spread messages of love and hope in support of those who are affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- UNICEF supported to form 20 community support groups with a total of 100 members (36 females and 64 males) in Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces where there is a large influx of returnees from India. The community support groups gather information of each households and disseminate preventive messages on COVID-19 addressing fear, misinformation or rumours related to the COVID-19. The ward level support group also support the health facilities in identifying any COVID-19 or other health related information. Lack of participation of female in the community support group for reaching out communities with the COVID-19 risk communication messages.
- More than 12 million people (58 percent male and 42 percent) were reached with key messages such as a) stay home b) wear mask c) wash hand with soap and water or sanitizer d) physical distance of at least 1 meter and e) suicide prevention and mental wellbeing through radio, television, social media and mobile phones.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- UNICEF handed over a total 128,000 surgical and 2,000 N95 masks; 39,400 surgical gloves; 3,670 bottle hand sanitizers; 2,000 coverall protection; 2,000 protective goggles and 1000 IR thermometer reaching a total of 4,267 health workers with COVID 19 protective gear.
- UNICEF reached 49 Health Care Facilities (HCF), 16 quarantine centers and nine isolation centers with minimum WASH supplies and cleaning/disinfection materials in 62 municipalities of 31 districts in five provinces. UNICEF managed to install 73 handwashing stations and provide critical WASH supplies to Health Care Facilities. UNICEF provided 842 blankets, 1194 bed nets and 7 medical tents to support the designated COVID hospitals and the isolation facilities. In addition, 692 hygiene kits, 271 buckets/jerrycans, 3,650 water purifiers tablets were provided to isolation centers, while quarantine centers received 5050 bars of soap, 316 sanitizers, 575 buckets, 1390 bottle water, 27,125 water purifiers tablets. A total of 15 toilets were also constructed in the quarantine centre.
- UNICEF reached 65,400 households through WASH promotional and behavioral change communication activities via PSA through FM radio and miking in eight districts.
- With massive daily influx of people from India, UNICEF provided required WASH support at the points of entries (POEs); these included provision of bottled water together with food assistance to 64,184 people covering five POEs, repairing two existing toilets, installation of 12 emergency/mobile toilets, installation of six hand washing stations and six drinking water supply systems as well as provision of 100 bars of soap and 2 buckets for smooth functioning of WASH stations in the PoEs and its transit points.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- UNICEF supported National Health Training Centre to finalise two training modules on COVID 19- one each for Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) and Health Workers including paramedics and nursing staff. The trainings will be conducted in batches and are expected to complete by the end of July. The first batches of four days online training to FCHV started on 15 June for 560 FCHVs and 500 health workers.
- UNICEF assessed continuity of essential health service (EHS) a total of 278 health facilities (177 in Province 2; 5 in Bagmati; 5 in Gandaki; 9 in Province 5 and 82 in both Karnali and Sudurpaschim). As per the assessment findings, basic health services are functional in almost health facilities. To date, a total of 114,027 recipients accessed EHS, of them 18,988 women reached with anti-natal care (ANC) service and 11,166 institutional deliveries received. Immunization services, mostly through facility-based sessions, reached 83,873 children (49% boys and 51% girls).
- UNICEF supported child and adolescent mental health clinic at Kanti Children Hospital provided clinical and psychosocial management support. To date since it started, 652 children (427 boys and 225 girls aged below 18 years) and 425 parents seek out psychosocial management support. Issues addressed via teleconsultation include therapeutic treatment with medication on psychiatric services and follow-up services to the clients.
- 2,658 children age 6-59 months with SAM were treated from the outpatient therapeutic centres (OTCs) and nutrition rehabilitation home (NRH) in past four months.
- 5.6 million Vitamin A capsules are available in the Central medical Store of MoHP and ready to distribute to the provincial and district warehouses within this week. 3 out of 7 provinces have commenced dosing of children 6-59months with vitamin A. To date 14,853 children have received vitamin A and all remaining target children to receive by early July.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF together with Education cluster is advocating to use schools and education institutes for quarantine purpose only as the last resort and have developed code of conduct for using schools and education institutes as quarantine sites. 'Working group on children in quarantine' is formed to assess the overall need and design response. UNICEF is coordinating with the working group for the regular update on the status of children in quarantine sites, to identify needs of the children in quarantine sites and develop a guide to ensure the education and learning access of the children. UNICEF is also supporting Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to finalize the school reopening framework.
- UNICEF is also supporting government as co-lead at federal level and five provinces (out of seven) to reach the most vulnerable children with self-learning packs who do not have access to internet, radio or TV for remote learning support. Education cluster members have reached 22,045 children through the distribution of self-learning packs.
- A total of 860 (494 males, 363 females, and 3 third gender) reached with psychosocial support through existing helplines, online platforms and one to one counselling. Most support sought were related to information on relief assistance, seeking health related information and people sharing feelings of fear, anxiety and stress due to various reasons. Among the total supported, 177 were referred for various services (69 for psychiatric consultations, 33 for relief assistance, 61 for health services, 4 for legal services and 10 for other social support). Likewise, a total of 4,214 people (3,581 males and 633 females) from 95 quarantine centres and two isolation facilities in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kalikot, Surkhet, Ramachhap, Jumla, Rupandehi districts were reached with awareness raising interventions on stress management and psychological first aid.
- Group orientation sessions on stress management and psychological first aid was provided virtually and through face to face interaction to a total of 1,464 persons (676 males, 712 females and 76 other gender). Among them 907 persons were from humanitarian organizations in Kathmandu, 76 persons were from sexual minority community in Kathmandu, 32 persons were from health care service providers in Province 2 and 449 were from communities including adolescent groups in Province 2, 5, 6, 7. So far, 7084 an estimated people (27%) have been reached through UNICEF's contributed to achieve the cluster target.
- The Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate - Nepal Police was supported with protection gears (23,000 masks, 40,000 pairs of gloves, 500 pairs of glasses, 500 litres hand sanitizer, 190 litres hand wash and 100 infrared thermometers) with the aim to support service continuity and adaptation including the use of community outreach approaches to enhance case identification and mitigate the impact of the lockdown on help-seeking behaviours.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- The impact on children of this income/consumption shock especially younger ones will be irreversible. UNICEF Nepal has examined a possible impact on stunting. Given the future projections of GDP growth to be around 2-4 per cent and hence real per capita incomes of only about 1-2 per cent, we may expect a slowdown in the rate of decrease of stunting. We could have a projected increase in stunting of about 32,000 if long term trends prevail or an increase of 71,525 if the decrease in stunting is moderately shocked to 2 per cent, or even an increase of 101,382 if the pace of decrease is shocked severely to 1 per cent. Stunting results in irreversible loss of cognitive capacity and potential to earn and flourish.

Pakistan Country Office:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MoHSRC) to convene the RCCE task force meetings and leads the UN communication group on RCCE. An estimated 282 million people have been reached with TV and radio through Government, UNICEF and other partners, including the mass media broadcasting of videos in partnership with UNILEVER which were produced by UNICEF in collaboration with MoHSRC and WHO. The contract between UNICEF and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation to produce and air a dedicated 50-minute weekly programme on Radio Pakistan and 24 FM³ radio stations linked to Radio Pakistan was signed and airing will start in the third week of June. The radio programme will promote prioritized behaviours which have been defined and will be initiated with the campaign on social distancing and mask use.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities which include Ultraviolet (UV) water filters, toilets and hand washing stations in 260 (18 new) out of 266 assessed Health Care Facilities (HCFs, Sindh: 38, KP: 37, Punjab: 167 and Balochistan:18). More than 372,000 people (72,000 new) have gained access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in these HCFs contributing towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among healthcare workers. Around 1.7 million (200,000 new) people have used the 547 (3 new) hand washing stations at communal points in affected areas. UNICEF supported the training of 3,769 frontline sanitary workers (199 new) to

³ frequency modulation

enhance the capacity of sanitary and health frontline workers on WASH/IPC in HCFs and high-risk communities. UNICEF developed an integrated IPC-WASH strategy focusing on primary healthcare facilities in eleven high burden districts harbouring 65 per cent of the caseload, where 41 per cent of the deaths have occurred. This will ensure an efficient and effective use of limited UNICEF resources towards the overall prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure the continuation of essential primary health care services including immunization, Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post-Natal Care (PNC), delivery services, childcare and curative care for adults in the 136 targeted health facilities reaching 56,283 people during the reporting period (Balochistan: 1,863; Sindh: 26,421; KP: 1,748; Punjab: 26,251) with a total reach of 967,810 since the onset of COVID-19. Measles immunisation reached a total of 655 children (under 1 year) (Balochistan: 122; Sindh: 335; KP: 198) during the reporting period with a total of 24,565 children vaccinated against measles in the 136 UNICEF supported health facilities.
- UNICEF supported IPC training reached 34,279 frontline health workers in total (17,100 new) and supported the training of 42,839 frontline health workers and community volunteers on COVID-19 and case identification and referral of suspected cases (16,950 new). This includes, a total of 19,611 Lady Health Workers and 1,038 vaccinators and 1,253 master trainers trained in Punjab using a prevention package (which includes messages on COVID-19 and IPC for infection prevention) for frontline workers
- During the reporting period, the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was available in 2,828 UNICEF supported health facilities, an increase of 9 during the reporting period. The increase is due to successful advocacy by UNICEF to resume services in sites reported as closed in the last Sitrep. A total of 27,216 SAM children have been admitted for treatment with 2,351 children admitted for treatment during the reporting period (Balochistan 428; Sindh 316; KP 848 and Punjab 759).

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF is leading on the development of National Learning Continuity Framework to ensure that all policy and programmatic responses pertaining COVID-19 are catering to the diverse range of technologies, geographies, languages, grade-levels, family and parental support levels for the students. As part of this initiative, UNICEF is supporting the MoFEPT's Tele school broadcast which is aired for 8 hours a day and is currently using existing repurposed content provided by various private sector EdTech (Educational Technology) providers. A recent Gallup survey conducted by the MoFEPT showed that nearly 2 in 5 Pakistanis claim to know about the Tele school broadcast and has reached in 4 million households within a short span of time. The Gallup survey estimates that around 7-8 million children between the ages of 5 to 15 years are viewing the Tele school broadcast.
- A total of 26,047 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (1,007 girls, 1,098 boys, 12,269 women, 11,673 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP, GB, Balochistan and Sindh provinces with 7,522 reached within the reporting period (Punjab: 623, KP: 37, Sindh: 6,598, Balochistan: 200, GB: 64). This includes 70 Individuals (3 girl, 8 boys, 19 women and 40 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in KP, Punjab and Balochistan

Sri Lanka Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Following the initial circular issued in May on “Getting the School and educational institutions ready to prevent the spread of Covid-19”, the Ministry of Education has issued a follow-up circular to all schools on 10 June 2020, outlining the classroom management; teaching-learning practices; maintenance of school environment; school hours and the conduct of extra-curricular and sport activities etc. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education’s Back to School campaign. The campaign is scheduled to launch during the week commencing from 29 June and will run for two weeks. The campaign targets students, parents and caregivers through mass media (TV and Radio) and digital media (in-class posters, leaflets, minibus stickers).

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- UNICEF with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) procured and delivered critical medical supplies worth of USD \$102,310 (LKR Rupees 19,054,214) to the Family Health Bureau (FHB) of the Ministry of Health (MOH); the supplies will be used to equip four COVID-19 isolation and treatment units specialized in maternal and neonatal care. The equipment included, two Infant Incubators, four Labour Room Beds, four Cardiotocography (CTG) Machines, four Infant Warmers, four Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Machines, four Infusion Pumps, and four Syringe Pumps.
- For pre-schools, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA) to develop and print the IPC guidelines. Additionally, a video promoting IPC measures was developed for preschool teachers to supplement the IPC guideline along with wallcharts depicting handwashing, covered sneezing and physical distancing that would be distributed to all preschool nation-wide. Currently the MoWCA is developing brochures with IPC measures for parents and putting together a cleaning supplies package to be delivered to all preschools. In addition, a special

design for handwashing stations for pre-schools without permanent water supply and pipe born water was developed with costing for the facilities and shared with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for finalization and approval for implementation.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- Since the whole country opened after the lock down MoH issued guidelines on resuming maternal and child health services including immunization and nutrition services in the field setting on the 23 May 2020. There has been a drop in the provision of antenatal clinic care services as measured by at least one clinic visit during the month for all registered pregnant mothers (68.2% in March 2020) but has returned to full coverage by April 2020 (100%). However, almost all the deliveries during this period (March and April 2020) have occurred in the hospital (99%) as it is normal in Sri Lankan setting.
- According to the findings of the rapid assessment of Water and Sanitation facilities in the field MCH clinics conducted by the FHB throughout the country revealed that 50% (1,539) clinics out of total 3,359 outreach MCH clinics in 26 Health Districts in the country do not have hand washing facilities at the entrance and about 30% (1,036 clinics) do not have hand washing facilities at the examination rooms. Detailed analysis of information and discussions to prioritize the districts to support improvements in hand washing facilities mainly at the entrance and examination rooms are underway.
- Online training is one of the most effective methods in maintaining the skills and competencies of the staff. MoH regularly invest substantially in in-service training of their professionally trained staff in IYCF. With the new normal setting where one-to-one training poses challenges in maintaining social distancing, the need to develop online training platforms has become a priority for the Child Health Programme. UNICEF is currently working with the FHB in developing an online training package on IYCF with a special focus on feeding sick children while preventing communicable infections such as COVID-19 in Sinhala and in Tamil. UNICEF continue to provide technical support in converting the existing IYCF module to be an online format, incorporating new assessment techniques etc.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- As part of the MoE's 'Back-to-School' campaign, UNICEF is supporting the development of cartoon books depicting pictures related to IPC measures to be delivered to all children in primary grades.
- To ensure safe school reopening, UNICEF is currently supporting the MoE in provision of wash stations and wash and hygiene materials for 1081 schools. This also includes the promotion of hand washing among students and regular monitoring and maintenance of the facilities provided.
- UNICEF continues to build capacities of the Child Rights Promotion Officers on digital case management system. To date 8 capacity building training were conducted on digital case management and around 260 Child Rights Promotion Officers were trained, and 362 children were supported via digital case management system. 56 children provided with alternative care supports and now integrated with their families.
- UNICEF worked with Northern Probation Department and Attorney General's Department (AG) very closely and advocated for release of children in detention centers in North. To date 33 children in detention centers were released. UNICEF together with Probation team and social service work force established a working mechanism to monitor these children and providing relevant care and protection supports. National level advocacy is continuing with AG's Department on the further release of the children in detention centers.
- UNICEF is closely working with National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to build their long-term capacity on Business Continuity Plan during lockdown and restriction of movements and as part of this initiative, zoom facilities were provided for NCPA and around 250 NCPA staffs were trained on using zoom to continue their services. Continuation of 1929 Child Protection hotlines services ensured and around 26 hotline officers capacity built on online services and selfcare. Because of this timely intervention, NCPA officials were able to provide efficient psychosocial care and counselling services to the needy children despite the lockdown situation.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- Advocacy is ongoing with the GoSL to continue provision of cash transfers to households as emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis. The cash transfers response that was provided in April and May has mostly stopped, being scaled back substantially due to upcoming General Elections in August. GoSL is negotiating with the World Bank and other IFIs and bilaterals some funds to continue cash transfers to people in the waiting lists of the Senior Citizen's Allowance, Disability Allowance and Chronic Disease Allowance for another 5 months. UNICEF continues to liaise with the IFIs to expand the conversation with thinktanks, CSOs and UNCT on proposal for Universal Lifecycle Cash transfers as response to COVID-19 and beyond.

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements (\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received (\$)	Other Resources (\$)	\$	%
Afghanistan	43,160,000	29,421,855	1,024,000	12,714,145	29
Bangladesh	75,827,325	12,055,760	11,485,390	52,286,175	69
Bhutan	2,616,000	2,255,866	223,400	136,734	5
India	40,000,000	19,169,403	5,160,000	15,670,597	39
Maldives	10,281,375	1,300,000	-	8,981,375	87
Nepal	14,355,000	7,012,714	1,225,045	6,117,241	43
Pakistan	50,200,000	6,119,255	4,069,421	40,011,324	80
Sri Lanka	4,600,000	2,147,900	30,000	2,422,100	53
Regional Office	2,500,000	2,242,500	-	257,500	10
Total	243,539,700	81,725,253	23,217,256	138,597,191	57

Next SitRep: 26th June 2020

UNICEF continues to monitor the situation very closely and situation reports will be issued on regular basis as the developments unfold.

Internal and External Media

UNICEF Report, *Lives Upended; How COVID-19 threatens the future of 600 million South Asian children*; <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/lives-upended>

UNICEF Press Statement on Urgent Actions needed to Safeguard futures of 600 million South Asian children threatened by COVID-19; <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/urgent-action-needed-safeguard-futures-600-million-south-asian-children-threatened>

Halima – an adolescent girl showing how to wash hands properly

<https://www.facebook.com/afghanistanunicef/videos/579050756057632/?t=0>

Super health workers and faith leaders are fighting Corona virus <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/stories/super-health-workers-and-faith-leaders-are-fighting-corona-virus>

Afghanistan heroes;<https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/stories/unicef-afghanistan-heroes-amid-covid19>

Every Step counts; <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/stories/every-step-counts>

Amid COVID19, UNICEF takes services closer to children and

women; <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/stories/amidst-covid-19-pandemic>

EU humanitarian aid' jets in over 26 metric tons of lifesaving immunization vaccines, amidst the Covid19 pandemic; <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/press-releases/eu-humanitarian-aid-jets-0?fbclid=IwAR0lpSQeez7CpF-HktEZhjak897uaz6fM5OtkWzZCgbAHCc8MtB8LPrHzY>

Who to contact for **Jean Gough**

further information: Regional Director

Regional Office for South Asia

Tel: +977 98510 20913

Email: jgough@unicef.org

Paul Rutter

Regional Adviser Health

Regional Office for South Asia

Tel: +9779801096877

Email: prutter@unicef.org

Carmen van Heese

Regional Adviser Emergency

Regional Office for South Asia

Tel: +9779801030064

Email: cvanheese@unicef.org