



Mongolia CO Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 2

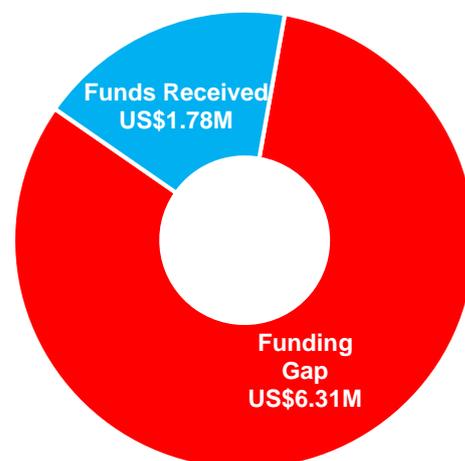
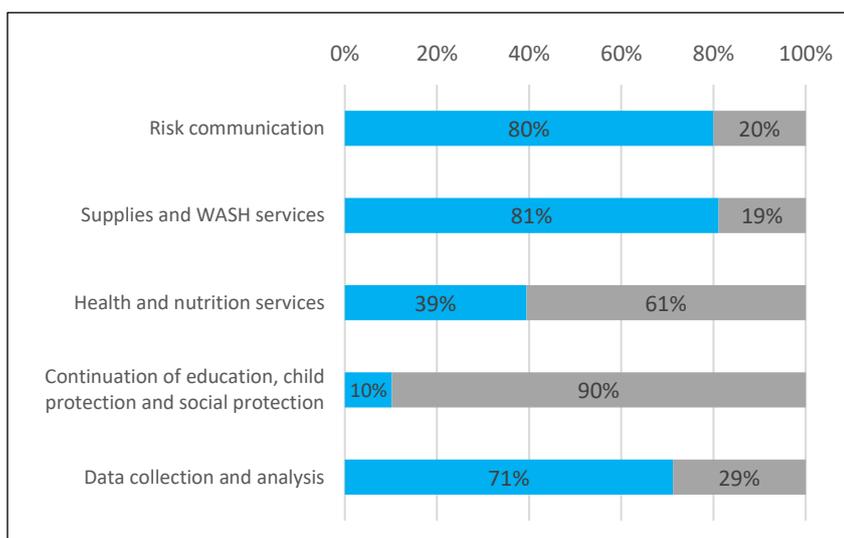
Mongolia: situation in numbers

- 191** Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 70** COVID-19 recovered
- 5** Children infected with COVID-19 (ages 8–15)
- 2** Pregnant women infected with COVID-19

Highlights

- As of 5 June 2020, no local transmission has been detected in the country and 191 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed, including five children, of which 70 have recovered.
- Schools and kindergartens will remain closed until 1 September 2020, directly impacting more than 900,000 children under the age of 18, with limited alternative care arrangements for the most vulnerable children.
- The impact of COVID-19 on households and businesses, especially tourism and the cashmere industry, is increasing. As a consequence, 8,000 people had lost their jobs by the end of the first quarter 2020, meaning at least the same number of households losing their income.

UNICEF's funding status



Situation overview and humanitarian needs

Due to the high risk and considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Government of Mongolia has extended the period of a heightened state of readiness for another month until 30 June 2020. This includes the closure of all education

facilities until 1 September 2020 and the suspension of all international flights. The international borders remain closed until 30 June 2020 and only charter planes to repatriate Mongolian citizens who were abroad are allowed to land. Upon arrival, passengers follow strict protocols including quarantine for three weeks followed by two weeks of self-isolation.

The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on the people of Mongolia is increasing: according to a National Statistics Office publication on COVID-19 and the economy in Mongolia, revenue in the hotel business and services such as restaurants declined by 43 and 20 per cent respectively in the first quarter of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. Inflation of food prices is rising and reached 7.8 per cent in April 2020, thus exposing children from the poorest families to food insecurity and malnutrition.

To reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Cabinet meeting held on 6 May 2020 decided to release a stimulus package to support herders' revenue and domestic production of cashmere. It was also decided to top up grants for vulnerable groups within the population.

Summary of UNICEF response actions in the country

Risk communication and community engagement

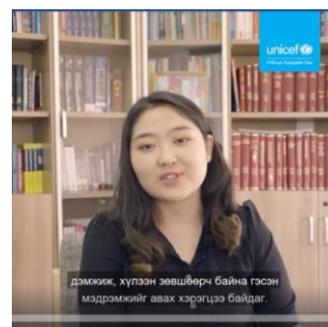
In coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF continues to support the production of communication materials with COVID-19 prevention messages and more practical and targeted information while setting up a feedback mechanism on service provision. A series of animations with preventive messages for children continue to be produced and broadcast via traditional and social media. Four animations produced and broadcast since 1 March have reached over 800,000 people and in excess of 300,000 people were additionally reached via television channels.



Two social media challenges were launched: #LearningAtHome for parents with children under 5, designed to help boost children's brain development, has reached close to 767,244 people so far.

The 'Working from Home' initiative promoted the benefits of working from home and provided tips, as well as raising awareness about child-friendly business practices. Over 60 private sector executives joined this initiative. It was initiated in April by UNICEF with the support of Unread website and the International Women's Federation of Commerce and Industry.

UNICEF is delivering a series of video advice and tips from mental health professionals to parents on talking to their adolescent children, things they can do together at home and positive parenting. UNICEF has also engaged a social media influencer family to deliver messages for parents. So far, three types of these social media assets have reached 160,000 people on the UNICEF Mongolia Facebook page.



UNICEF partnered with the Mongolian Association of Sign Language Interpreters to ensure people and children with hearing disabilities have access to prevention



information as well as COVID-related hotlines. The Association interprets animations with preventive messages for children produced by UNICEF with sign language. To date, these have reached 17,000 people with disabilities. Video interpretation services for people with hearing disabilities to reach hotlines are also ongoing.

A UNICEF-supported Chatbot on information and messages related to COVID-19 is operating on both UNICEF and Ministry of Health platforms. Through UNICEF, over 6,000 users engaged through 27,600 messages received and sent.

UNICEF mobilized volunteers to conduct telephone surveys among target audiences to get feedback on their access to information and services. Three rounds of a rapid assessment have been carried out: (i) community feedback and response on risk communication activities; (ii) youth feedback and views on the ongoing COVID-19 response towards adolescents; and (iii) the status of institution-based services for pregnant women and lactating mothers, along with dissemination of key and specific messages to the group during COVID-19.

Critical supply and logistics and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services

UNICEF is continuing to support the nationwide Hygiene Campaign, including handwashing with soap. Within this initiative a series of hygiene (handwashing) communication materials are being produced and disseminated. The campaign has reached 500,000 people.

UNICEF has supported the COVID-19 call centre – 119 – to improve responses for those seeking information, and the number of trained operators has increased by 50%. Since 4 May, a total of 5,062 calls have been received and 120 of them were related to WASH topics.

As part of the UNICEF partnership with the Mongolian Red Cross, procurement of emergency hygiene and prevention supplies for 30 healthcare facilities – specifically for quarantine stations in 21 provinces and nine districts – was carried out, and distribution was organized in coordination with the Ministry of Health.



WASH supplies distribution at Darkhan-Uul Province Police Department

Provision of healthcare and nutrition services

With joint technical and financial support from the WHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, the Ministry of Health has developed a joint training programme for health care workers (HCWs) and community health workers on interim guidance and standard operating procedures on maternal and neonatal child healthcare during the pandemic and 10 related topics including psychosocial counselling and supervision of home-based care. The training of trainers covering 500 HCWs and 500 community health workers is ongoing. Moreover, a detailed guideline based on the WHO guidelines for the training of health workers on maternal, newborn and child health and infection prevention were issued by the Ministry of Health. With UNICEF support, an additional 120 HCWs were trained on infection prevention and control in four additional districts of Ulaanbaatar, making a total of 620 HCWs.

Nationwide distribution of high-dose vitamin A supplementation for 309,166 children aged 6–59 months old was completed.

Access to continuous education, child protection and social protection services

Education

In order to encourage parents' engagement with their children at home, UNICEF produced a series of videos on positive parenting around integrated early childhood development, reaching 700,000 people.

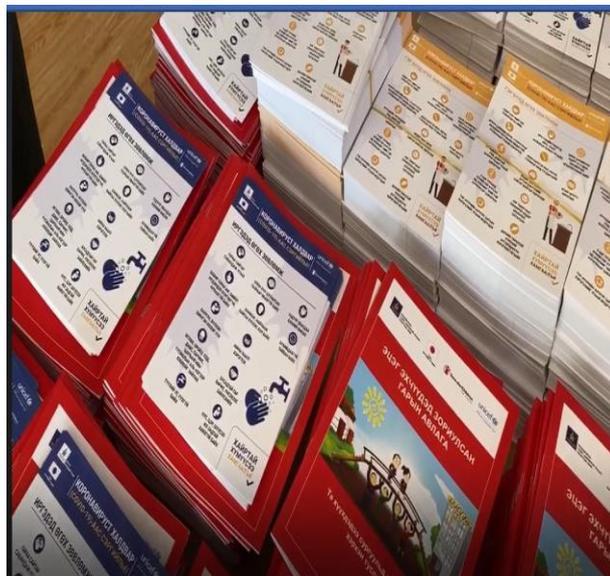


Positive parenting videos

UNICEF supported the development of an education contingency plan for the pandemic, which was approved and distributed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports (MECSS) nationwide, reaching 820 schools and 1,439 kindergartens. The safe school operating guidance was also disseminated along with the contingency plan to prepare for the eventual return to school.

UNICEF conducted a quick survey to get parents' feedback on ongoing television lessons during COVID-19 quarantine. The findings show that in 45 per cent of cases, children watch television lessons more than five times per week and in 48 per cent of cases they are helped by parents, while 4.4 per cent do not want television lessons at all.

During the current school and kindergarten closure, parents are under high pressure to support their children learning at home. In order to support these parents as well as help them prepare their children for school, UNICEF, in collaboration with Save the Children and MECSS, printed and distributed a guidebook for parents nationwide, specifically targeting parents of 81,000 children aged 5–6 years who will enrol in Grade 1 in the 2020/21 academic year. This nationwide initiative aims to support parents on home-based learning during COVID-19 as well as help them prepare their children for school, and has received positive feedback from parents.



In order to reach out to children who cannot access television lessons, UNICEF supported the development and distribution of a student's workbook and parents' guidebook targeting 500 primary school children from herder families in remote areas in Zavkhan Province. UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA are jointly supporting the establishment of an e-learning platform and development of offline materials.

Child protection

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in conducting online training for the child protection rapid response teams of all provinces and districts on child protection in emergencies, providing guidance on priority interventions during COVID-19. So far 191 government staff who provide direct services for children and families – including child protection officers, social workers, psychologists, child helpline operators and protection shelter staff – have benefited from these trainings. In addition, they have received hard copies of the training materials that were disseminated through the Authority for Children, Family and Youth Development.

UNICEF supported reprinting of 3,000 copies of the Child Protection Case Management Guidelines that were adapted and tested by Save the Children (Japan) for distribution to all subnational and community-level social workers/case workers. Using these guidelines, Case Management Reference Group members are developing online modules for further training of professionals. To date, 869 cases have been managed by trained social workers under professional guidance and supervision from the Case Management Reference Group.



'You are not alone' campaign video

UNICEF is coordinating its work with the gender-based violence (GBV) subcluster led by UNFPA, and has jointly developed two guidelines for strengthening GBV/domestic violence prevention and response to provide essential services to survivors of domestic violence and to address specific challenges. The guidelines were introduced to 30 staff of 14 temporary protection shelters and 15 One-Stop Service Centres that provided safe houses and other services for 1,036 survivors, including 555 children.

A six-month community awareness campaign. 'You are not alone' has started to support psychosocial well-being and safety of children. Psychoeducational messages and videos/TikTok videos have been developed and disseminated online to children, parents and caregivers, reaching 262,713 people.

Procurement of Dignity Kits for women and adolescent girls in One-Stop Service Centres, protection shelters and institutional care facilities across the country is ongoing, for distribution to over 600 survivors including both women and children.

UNICEF translated and disseminated evidence-based messages for parents with children of all ages through social media platforms, reaching 83,670 people. The messages include six simple one-pagers of advice for parents and caregivers on: 'one-on-one time', 'staying positive', 'creating a daily routine', 'avoiding bad behaviour', 'managing stress' and 'talking about COVID-19'. The messages were prepared collaboratively by Parenting for Lifelong Health, WHO, UNICEF, the United States Centers for Disease Control, Internet of Good Things, United States Agency for International Development and the End Violence Partnership.

Data collection, analysis and research

Data collection has been completed for the rapid social impact assessment, which aims to assess the possible impacts on children of current COVID-19 preventive measures, with a specific focus on childcare arrangements, protection, food/nutrition, availability of and access to social and protection services, and key needs of the most vulnerable children and families. The findings of this rapid assessment are expected to inform Government and non-government partners' responses to COVID-19 in Mongolia.

In collaboration with National Statistics Office, preparations for a telephone interview-based Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) are continuing. The MICS Plus survey aims to derive continuous, representative and sound data on the socioeconomic status of households and children as well as COVID-19 implications.

Funding

The UNICEF Mongolia response plan is 22 per cent funded: of the US\$8,098,300 needed, US\$1,788,080 was received/pledged as of 2 June 2020. The contributions are from bilateral donors (Government of Japan and United States Agency for International Development), multilateral donors (Asian Development Bank, Global Partnership for Education, the United Nations Response and Recovery Fund) and philanthropists (Child Fund Korea).

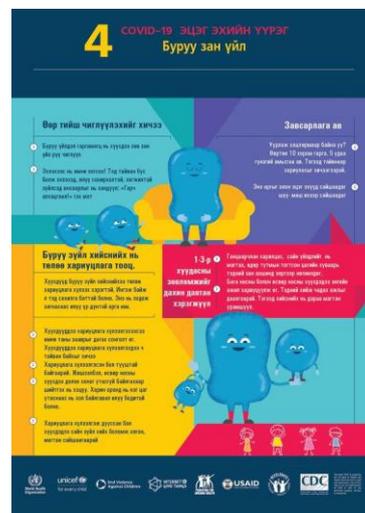
Internal and external media

Website: unicef.mn

Twitter: @UNICEF_Mongolia

Facebook: UNICEF Mongolia

- [Enkhee's advice #1 animation on fun things to do at home during lockdown](#)
- [Enkhee's advice #2 animation on taking care of your elder grandparents](#)
- [Enkhee and Mendee's advice animation on healthy food and nutrition for children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- Series of video advice by mental health professionals for parents and adolescent children to cope with stress and anxiety brought on by COVID-related restrictions
 - [Planning your day](#)
 - [Why are friendships important for adolescents?](#)
 - [Interview with a social media influencer - Mr Batmunkh's family with adolescent children](#)
 - [Cards with tips on what parents can do together their children](#)
 - [How to talk to your adolescent children](#)
- [COVID-19 prevention messages in sign language](#)
- [The Nationwide Hygiene Campaign page](#)
- [Dedicated page on COVID-19 on UNICEF Mongolia website](#)



Next Situation Report: 5 July 2020

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Annex A: Summary of selected programme results

Areas of response	2020 target	Total UNICEF results
Risk communication and community engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services*	2,000,000	421,384
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement actions	300,000	10,068
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	100,000	16,596
Critical supply and logistics and WASH services		
Number of children reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices (specific to schools and early childhood development centres)	900,000	650,000
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	120,000	77,000
Provision of healthcare and nutrition services		
Number of healthcare facility staff provided with personal protective equipment	500	500
Number of health facility staff and community health workers trained in detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	1,000	620
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control	1,000	620
Number of people reached with nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19	360,000	250,000
Number of children that have access to essential nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic period	280,000	309,166
Access to continuous education and child protection services		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	605,967 children	100,000, including 19,000 children from ethnic minorities
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	2,000	955
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support	105,000	83,670
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	150	40

**As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored in the possibility of double counting.*

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk communication	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$50,000	20%
Supplies and WASH services	\$678,300	\$550,173	\$128,127	19%
Health and nutrition services	\$520,000	\$205,000	\$315,000	61%
Continuation of education, child protection and social protection	\$6,400,000	\$654,907	\$5,745,093	90%
Data collection and analysis	\$250,000	\$178,000	\$72,000	29%
Total	\$8,098,300	\$1,788,080	\$6,310,220	78%