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## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 13,207 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 22 June, more than 3 times the number one month ago. There have been 161 deaths and 7,168 recoveries (54.3 per cent recovery rate). The number of tests carried out as of 22 June was 426,349. The largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases (491 new cases per day) was recorded between 20-21 June.
- The Government of Azerbaijan imposed a second full weekend lockdown (curfew) from 14-16 June and re-imposed a new strict quarantine regime with restricted public movement from 21 June to 5 July in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Lankaran, Yevlakh, Masalli, Jalilabad cities, and Absheron district. The closure of borders has been extended until 1 August except for cargo transportation and occasional special flights.
- Azerbaijan has introduced a free E-TABIB app to keep track of people who may have COVID-19.
- UNICEF has been continuously contacted by the media for comments on COVID-19 and children with interviews by the [UNICEF Representative](#). An [op-ed on COVID-19](#) by the Representative was carried by a leading media outlet.
- UNICEF Azerbaijan Country Office continues to work with the local NGO Regional Development Public Union (RDPU), which conducted an online session on 10 June with 820 volunteers discussing "[psychological support during public awareness about COVID-19](#)" and 17 June with 920 volunteers on "[interpersonal communication skills during awareness-raising activities](#)". The online sessions reached 4,800 views (20 questions and 30 comments) and 4,500 views (30 questions) on social media platforms respectively.
- Five videos on [hand washing dance challenge](#), [sport at home](#) and being responsible to prevent spread of infection were produced and circulated in partnership with the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, reaching some 55,226 young people and generating 17,815 views through various social media platforms.
- The Ministry of Education agreed a partnership with UNICEF and USAID for a communication campaign on "Back to School" to take place from August to October. Discussions are underway to prepare the campaign, including expected target audiences, targeted messages, communication assets to be developed and other relevant issues.
- 600 sets of hygiene items consisting of liquid and solid soaps, toothbrushes for children and adults, shampoo, toothpaste, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, medical alcohol, napkins and diapers have been purchased by Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) and transported to AzRC local branches. Starting from 22 June AzRC volunteers will start distribution of items to the most socio-economically vulnerable families in 22 districts.
- The distribution of a second batch of food packages for 812 vulnerable families living in Baku, Absheron and other regions of Azerbaijan was completed.

## Azerbaijan Country Office COVID-19 Situation Report No. 9

unicef 

hər bir uşaq üçün

## Situation in Numbers (as of 22 June 2020)



**13,207**  
COVID-19 cases



**161**  
COVID-19 deaths



**7,168**  
people recovered



**1.9 million**  
School and pre-  
school aged children  
and young people  
affected by  
school closures



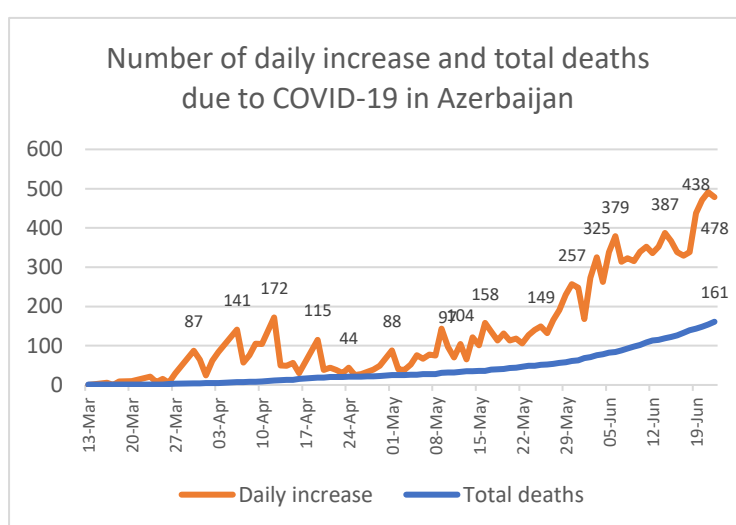
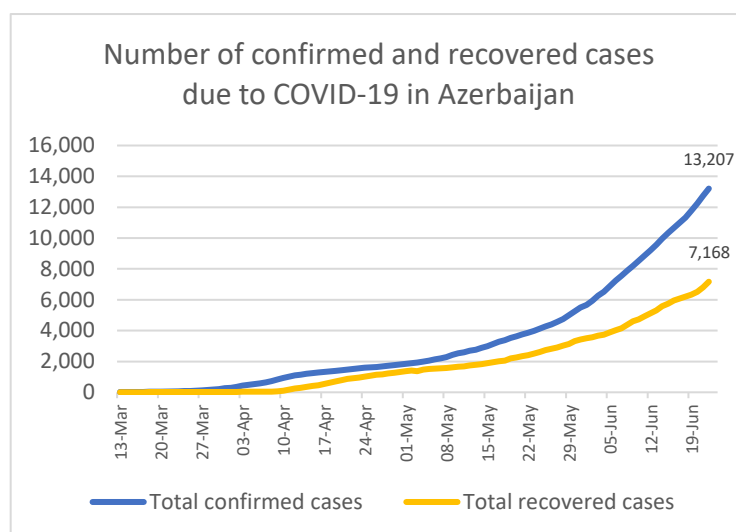
**US\$ 1,235,185**  
Planned budget

**US\$ 455,630**  
Funding gap

# SITUATION OVERVIEW & HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

## OVERALL SITUATION UPDATES

- 13,207 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 22 June, more three times the number one month ago. There have been 161 deaths and 7,168 recoveries (54.3 per cent recovery rate). The number of tests carried out as of 22 June was 426,349. The largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases (491 new cases per day) was recorded between 20-21 June.
- The Government announced a second full weekend lockdown (curfew) from 14-16 June in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Lankaran, Absheron, Yevlakh, Kurdamir and Salyan districts.
- The Government also re-imposed a strict quarantine regime restricting public movement and operation of certain businesses from 21 June to 5 July. Strict quarantine regime is applied in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Lankaran, Yevlakh, Masalli, Jalilabad cities, and the Absheron district.
- The closure of borders has been extended until 1 August except for cargo transportation and occasional special flights.
- Azerbaijan has introduced a new E-TABIB application to keep track of people who may have COVID-19.
- The State Examination Center held final school examinations (vocational school and university admission examinations) for general (9 years) and full (11 years) secondary education levels on 10 June. All pupils and monitors had to sign a declaration that neither they nor their family members tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 15 days to gain access to the exam venues. However, two examination controllers and about 20 pupils were not admitted to exam venues due to high fever.
- Three more hospitals in Azerbaijan will treat COVID-19 patients only.



## UNICEF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

### RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

- UNICEF continued its risk communication campaign with the financial support of USAID. Over the last two weeks the following content was posted on UNICEF social media platforms: Experimental videos for children on [hand-washing](#) and [physical distancing](#) reaching more than 5,000 people, as well as [myth-busters](#) on various misconceptions among the public.
- The partnership with the Youth Foundation to raise awareness amongst young people on COVID-19 continued in the past two weeks: Refer to [Engaging Adolescents and Young People](#) section (5 videos)
- UNICEF has been continuously contacted by the media for comments on COVID-19 and children with interviews by the [UNICEF Representative](#). An [op-ed on COVID-19](#) by the Representative was carried by a leading media outlet.
- UNICEF continued to work closely with the local NGO Regional Development Public Union (RDPU), which conducted its online session on 10 June with 820 volunteers discussing "[psychological support during public awareness about COVID-19](#)" and 17 June with 920 volunteers on "[interpersonal communication skills during awareness-raising activities](#)". The online sessions reached 4,800 views (20 questions and 30 comments) and 4,500 views (30 questions) on social media platforms respectively.

## ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Five videos on [hand washing dance challenge](#), [sport at home](#) and being responsible to prevent spread of infection ([video 1](#), [video 2](#); [video 3](#)) were produced and circulated in partnership with the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, reaching some 55,226 young people and generating 17,815 views through various social media platforms. The new assets are part of a healthy lifestyle series for young people promoting active lifestyle through basic sport exercises while staying at home and social distancing while outside in public places and streets.
- UNICEF completed a series of six interactive webinars on Basic Life Skills (“BLS Remote”) based on its face-to-face regular 16-lesson programme in the cross-country network of Youth Houses. The sixth webinar on resilience was held on 11 June on social media platform and on 15 June through an online meeting platform reaching 3,532 and 662 young people and their family members respectively. Under the initiative of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the same session was also successfully repeated in Russian on 13 June for a joint group of adolescents and youth from Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.
- Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) organized an online training session for 24 schoolchildren from three Baku schools and 96 schoolchildren from six Sumgayit schools to discuss and advance their knowledge on COVID-19 prevention. During the reporting period, the hotline operated by AzRC received more than 2,560 calls. Issues raised by young people and their family members were mainly related to how and where they can receive socio-economic and practical aid. There were also calls from people seeking information on how to cope with stress and how best to present COVID 19-related information to children. Calls requiring professional psychological counselling of children have been referred to the national Child Helpline.

## PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION SERVICES

- Social media posts on breastfeeding, healthy diet for children, types of physical activity at home were developed and disseminated by the Public Health Reform Center (PHRC). PHRC has organized another live session on the role of volunteers during COVID-19 pandemic to encourage young people to become volunteers and provide support to communities and the most vulnerable families (3,300 views).
- Regional Development Public Union continued regular provision of relevant information to parents through its [social media platforms](#) on various aspects of Early Childhood Development (ECD) including the characteristics of infancy, addressing common parental concerns and questions on vaccination, animations on precautions for children and parents while going out during the pandemic (personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, social distancing from other people), consequences of chronic stress during pregnancy, and sleeping problems in infants. A live session with a child psychologist was organized on 19 June, which reached 557 people.
- As part of the project on psychological support for children in better adaptation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Mental Health Centre has completed its online training sessions consisting of five sessions for psychologists working in schools in Baku, Sumgayit and Lankaran. A protocol on identification, proper assessment of signs of mental health issues among children and adolescents and relevant psychological interventions and referrals for more sophisticated support were developed based on WHO guidelines.

## ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING: EDUCATION

- Preschool education classes developed with the support of UNICEF Azerbaijan continue to be broadcast on 2 national television channels targeting children below the age of 5. The early education videos are also available at the [Parenting Education Portal](#) supported by UNICEF. About 130,000 children under 5 are estimated to have been reached during the period 8-21 June by the distance preschool education classes on television. The parenting education portal and cell phone application for parents, *ilk5il*, have reached over 5,000 parents over the last two weeks with resources on early education and child development provided by UNICEF.
- The Institute of Education under the Ministry of Education with the support of UNICEF has continued a detailed review and analysis of the Ministry’s policies and actions and recommendations in response to COVID-19, including those for maximizing student learning, focused on the most vulnerable groups of population; supporting teachers; designing an adequate operational standards for schools and preschools; developing recommendations for school health and safety norms; and monitoring of education, including equity of access and equity of learning. Over the next few weeks a roadmap for safe school reopening in the new school year will be developed, addressing the main challenges emerging from the pandemic in student learning, teacher support, operations and health and safety.
- The Ministry of Education agreed a partnership with UNICEF and USAID to organize a communication campaign on “Back to School” to take place from August to October 2020. Preparation of the campaign, including expected target audiences, targeted messages, communication assets to be developed and other relevant issues began being discussed by partners.

## ACCESS TO CHILD PROTECTION AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE

- Messages on positive parenting, coping with stress among families affected by financial hardship; children with disabilities; single-parent families; families experiencing additional stress due to the risks of infection and/or staying at home; and families at risk of domestic violence, continued to be disseminated through online and offline channels. During the reporting period, online messages reached 6,514 people on social media platforms, 700 people on messaging platforms. 540 packages of printed materials were distributed offline between 8-21 June.
- 175 children and 113 adults were provided with psychosocial support (psychological counselling through telephone, messaging platform, and VOIP) between 8-21 June by UNICEF-supported social workers.
- 254 calls were responded to by the Azerbaijan Child Helpline supported by UNICEF, together with other partners, between 8-21 June, of which 51 calls were made by children and 203 by adults.
- UNICEF continued social support to vulnerable families (families with institutionalised children and children deprived of parental care) in the form of boxes containing basic food items and hygiene materials. From 8-21 June, 812 families were provided with this support.

## DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

- The sixth round of weekly high-frequency surveys through telephone interviews with 500 respondents have helped gain further insights to public understanding and response to COVID-19. Results have been shared with key government counterparts and UN/international partners, including USAID, to support refinement of messaging and strategic response planning. UNICEF Azerbaijan has received a dashboard for social listening in the past week and is currently analysing the data and exploring the most effective way of using the generated data.

### ***Risk communication:***

- Perception of coronavirus risk remained almost the same as previous weeks as 8 per cent of respondents reported COVID-19 is not dangerous and 63 per cent think it is unlikely that they will contract the virus. Elderly persons (65+) and people with low immunity were considered as most at-risk population subgroups.
- Respondents were mostly aware of the ways to prevent disease, however, keeping social/physical distance is not among the most selected way to prevent the infection both knowledge and behavior wise (around 7 per cent).
- Percentage of respondents who indicated television as the most trusted information channel continues decreasing and since 18-31 May percentage of respondents who do not trusting any source started increasing.

### ***Economic impacts:***

- The percentage of respondents borrowed money for food has decreased since last survey (from 26 per cent to 17 per cent). One third of respondents (36 per cent) could afford lending 50 AZN compared to 25 per cent during the survey period 18-31 May.
- 40 per cent of respondents began spending less in the previous weeks. At the same time, "I don't have anything to spend" further decreased since previous survey.
- The percentage of households receiving government assistance has decreased since last survey (from 23 per cent to 17 per cent). Of those receiving government assistance 57 per cent received 190 AZN cash assistance and 12 per cent cash support to individual entrepreneurship from the government and 38 per cent food packages from different sources.

### ***Health impacts:***

- 32 per cent of respondents who reported health issues could not access health facilities either because of long queue or total lockdown during the weekends and 4 per cent of households (n=2) having health problems (n=51) reported having COVID-19.
- Percentage of respondents reported several people in their community got sick last week has increased compared to previous survey weeks.
- Percentage of respondents reporting unusual increase in mortality in their community also has slightly increased compared to previous survey weeks.

### ***Nutrition impacts:***

- 14 per cent of respondents went to sleep hungry as there was not food in their households at any day of the last week.
- Bread, rice, buckwheat, pasta, noodles remained the main food group consumed last week similar to the previous surveys.
- The consumption of meat-based food decreased from 48 per cent to 39 per cent since survey period 18-31 May.
- Percentage of households having three meals one day before the survey have increased compared to period of 18-31 May.

### ***Mental health impacts:***

- Percentage of respondents feeling themselves very unhappy has continued decreasing since last survey period.
- Percentage of respondents feeling themselves down, depressed and hopeless due to COVID-19 news, threats and restrictions has increased compared to the survey period 18-31 May, which could be related to enforcing full lockdown during the weekends.
- Percentage of respondents thinking their 'quality of life stayed more or less the same compared to this time last week' remained the same (67 per cent).

### ***Education impacts:***

- One third of pre-school-aged children supported by homebased learning in weeks 6-7. Use of video conferencing for home-based education by pre-school-aged children has significantly increased in weeks 6-7 (92 per cent) compared to weeks 4-5 (64 per cent).
- Three-fourths (75 per cent) of schoolchildren supported by distance learning compared to 62 per cent in weeks 4-5. Use of video conferencing for distant learning by school children has also increased in weeks 6-7 (54 per cent) compared to weeks 4-5 (48 per cent).
- Majority of schoolchildren on distance learning received support from schoolteachers.

**Child protection impacts:**

- Aggressive behaviour towards the children has increased compared to previous survey weeks as more parents reported shouting (17 per cent), spanking (5 per cent) and beating (2 per cent) their children.
- Also percentage of parents 'doing some housing activities together' has increased from 20 per cent to 31 per cent.

## SUPPLY

- 600 sets of hygiene items including liquid and solid soaps, dishwashing liquid, and medical alcohol have been purchased by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) and transported to its local branches. From 22 June, AzRC volunteers have distributed items to the most socio-economically vulnerable families in 22 districts.
- The distribution of a second batch of food packages for 812 vulnerable families living in Baku, Absheron and other regions of Azerbaijan was finalized.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

### UN AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

- UNICEF finalised a proposal for US\$ 1 million to support expanded Infection Prevention and Control training for health workers in districts.
- A meeting with the Swiss Embassy in Azerbaijan was held to discuss the possible cooperation in supporting COVID-19 response. A proposal related to increasing capacity for NGO workers to identify and respond to possible domestic violence will be prepared.

### COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

- Nothing new to report

## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

- Online programme for pre-school children "We play, we learn":
  1. <https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3253052.html>
  2. <https://apa.az/ru/sotsium/V-etom-uchebnom-godu-gruppy-doshkolnoj-podgotovki-okonchili-svyshe-100-tysyach-detej-414629>
  3. [https://azertag.az/xeber/Mezun\\_gunu\\_Tehsil\\_naziri\\_Son\\_zengi\\_chaldi\\_YENILANIB-1510869](https://azertag.az/xeber/Mezun_gunu_Tehsil_naziri_Son_zengi_chaldi_YENILANIB-1510869)
- Story on support to vulnerable families within a joint initiative of UNICEF and ASAN Volunteers with the financial support of the European Union:
  4. <https://modern.az/az/news/243272>
- Myth-buster posts referring to wide misconceptions among public on COVID-19 posted on social media platforms caught attention of the media:
  5. <https://az.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3255259.html>
  6. <https://open.az/daxili-siyaset/unicef-qaynar-vanna-qebulu-gunes-sualari-sizi-virusa-qarsi-qorumur.html>
  7. <http://www.kaspi.az/az/unicef-qaynar-vanna-qebulu-gunes-sualari-sizi-virusa-qarsi-qorumur>

## NEXT SIT REP: 21 JULY 2020

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