



Updated on 10 June 2020 (reporting period: 25 May – 7 June)

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 8,191 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 9 June, a near doubling of prevalence compared to two weeks ago (3,982 as of 23 May). There have been 98 deaths and 4,606 recoveries. The number of tests carried out as of 9 June was 349,200. Daily confirmed cases have increased noticeably since quarantine regimes were gradually eased since 11 May. A full curfew was introduced over the last weekend in major cities.
- The risk communication campaign supported by USAID has targeted children with educational videos explaining COVID-19 and how to protect oneself with following content posted on social media: "[Experiment style video on COVID-19 for children – How does coronavirus look?](#)" (2,600 reach), "[Experiment style video on COVID-19 for children – Magic of soap in fight against the disease](#)" (1,300 reach), and "[Book reading session with celebrities, Gunel Anarqizi](#)" (2,100 reach). [New animated books](#) were released to support parents with pre-school age children continue education in a digital environment. Also, a new precautionary animation series was released – [example here](#).
- UNICEF has been continuously contacted by the media for comments on COVID-19 and children with interviews by the UNICEF [Representative](#). The UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer, Education Specialist and Child Protection Specialist were invited in various television talk shows over the last two weeks.
- The Regional Development Public Union conducted its [5th and 6th online training sessions](#) on social media platforms reaching 42,000 people on Facebook and 14,000 on Instagram, of which 980 were volunteers who are mobilized for awareness-raising activities. The topics covered speech culture and etiquette in communication, social responsibility of public awareness on COVID-19, and self-protection measures during field work.
- Two videos on hygiene and [hip-hop challenge](#) were produced and circulated in partnership with the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, reaching some 35,000 young people and generating 14,800 views through various social network platforms.
- The National Mental Health Centre together with Reliable Future (an NGO hosting the Child Helpline) completed five sessions of online training for psychologists working Baku, Sumgayit and Lankaran schools, covering the topics of mental health and possible challenges faced by children and adolescents in schools, psychological first aid/crisis intervention, maintaining healthy psychological environment at schools; bullying and stigma prevention; development of effective cooperation between psychologists and the other educational process participants; and establishing effective referral systems. More than 20 child psychologists joined each session.
- 8,000 packages were prepared and distributed by the Regional Development Public Union volunteers with learning and hygiene materials (painting books, soap, ruler, scissor, coloured papers, coloured pencils, plasticine, glue, face-paint, pencil sharpener) to support early learning at home for children aged 2-8 from internally displaced families in 11 districts (Baku, Absheron, Sumgayit, Ismayilli, Terter, Barda, Agjabedi, Bilasuvar, Yevlakh, Ganja, and Gazakh).

Azerbaijan Country Office COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8

unicef 

hər bir uşaq üçün

Situation in Numbers (as of 9 June 2020)



8,191
COVID-19 cases



98
COVID-19 deaths



4,606
people recovered



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



US\$ 1,235,185
Planned budget

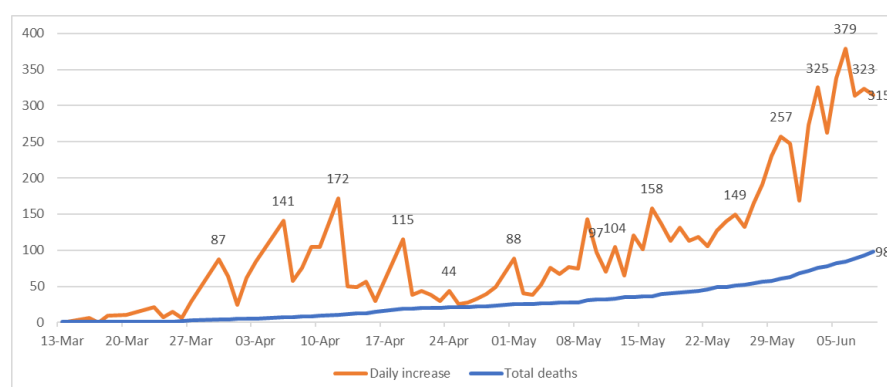
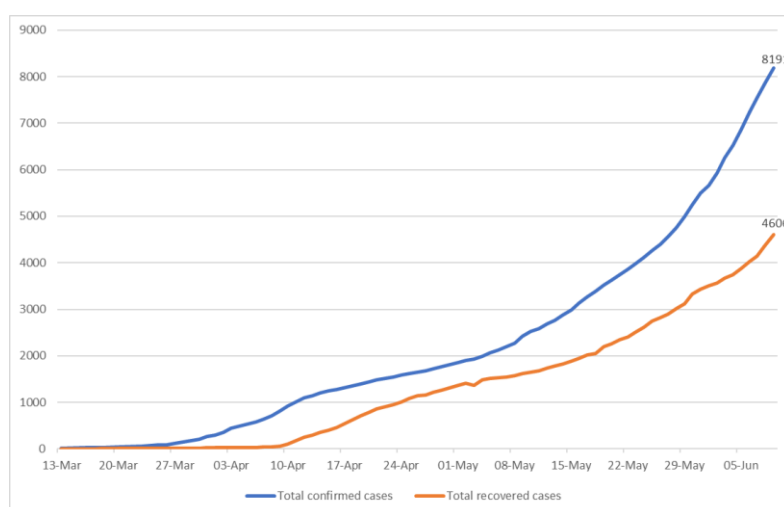
US\$ 455,630
Funding gap

SITUATION OVERVIEW & HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

OVERALL SITUATION UPDATES

- 8,191 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 9 June, a near doubling of prevalence compared to two weeks ago (3,982 as of 23 May). There have been 98 deaths and 4,606 recoveries. The number of tests carried out as of 9 June was 349,200. Daily confirmed cases have increased noticeably since quarantine regimes were gradually eased since 11 May. A full curfew was introduced over the last weekend (6-7 June) in major cities.

Graph 1: Number of confirmed cases and recovered due to COVID-19 in Azerbaijan



Graph 2: Number of daily new cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in Azerbaijan

- Due to the increased spread of coronavirus infection in the country, a tightened quarantine of full lockdown (curfew) was introduced in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Lankaran cities and Absheron regions over the past weekend (6-7 June). However, all major restrictions were lifted during working days.
- The closure of borders has been extended until July 1. It was originally planned to open the borders on 15 June.

UNICEF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

- Azerbaijan Country Office continued its risk communication campaign with the financial support of USAID. Last week content targeted children with educational videos explaining COVID-19 and how to protect oneself. Over the last two weeks the following contents were posted on UNICEF social media platforms: "[Experiment style video on COVID-19 for children – How does coronavirus look?](#)" (2,600 reach), "[Experiment style video on COVID-19 for children – Magic of soap in fight against the disease](#)" (1,300 reach), and "[Book reading session with celebrities, Gunel Anarqizi](#)" (2,100 reach). [New animated books](#) were released to support parents with pre-school age children continue education in a digital environment. Also, a new precautionary animation series was released – [example here](#).
- The partnership with the Youth Foundation to raise awareness amongst young people on COVID-19 [continued in the past two weeks focusing on positive activities during quarantine](#), with a series of assets being specifically produced for young people
- UNICEF has been continuously contacted by the media for comments on COVID-19 and children with interviews by the UNICEF [Representative](#). The UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer, Education Specialist and Child Protection Specialist were invited in various television talk show programme over the last two weeks.
- UNICEF Azerbaijan co-hosted a live session on "active-listening" jointly reaching more than 3,200 young people. Also, in response to the weekend curfew on 6-7 June, another live session with a psychologist on children's well-being and mental health was organized.
- A joint regional live session with a well-known Ukrainian pediatrician in Russian language was held on social media platforms along with other UNICEF offices in the region.

- With the support of UNICEF, the Regional Development Public Union (RDPU) NGO conducted two online training sessions on 28 May and 3 June respectively. The sessions reached 42,000 people on Facebook and 14,000 on Instagram, of which 980 were volunteers who are mobilized for risk communication and community engagement in the field. The topics covered speech culture and etiquette in communication, social responsibility of public awareness on COVID-19, and self-protection measures during field work. Active engagement was received from the audience with over 100 comments posted by the volunteers.
- Regional Development Public Union volunteers started engaging their network to participate and promote internet-based challenges, through encouraging parents for making and posting creative videos/photos produced by themselves. 1,095 COVID-19 prevention posters were distributed in Baku and other regions.
- Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) continued distribution of UNICEF-developed risk communication materials through 300 volunteers in 22 districts. During the reporting period 15,651 brochures/leaflets and 388 posters were distributed to families in the houses, markets and pharmacies. 6,772 brochures were distributed among internally displaced persons.

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- During the reporting period, 5,621 young people and adolescents on social media platforms (Facebook- 4,234; Instagram- 1,387) were reached with risk communication messages through a joint initiative with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 11 Youth Houses and UNICEF NGO partners, including the National Association of Youth Organisations of Azerbaijan, Part Agency, Junior Achievement and Education Hub.
- Two videos on hygiene and [hip-hop challenge](#) were produced and circulated in partnership with the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, reaching some 35,000 young people and generating 14,800 views through various social network platforms. The new assets are part of healthy lifestyle series for young people promoting active lifestyle while staying at home. A hip-hop challenge presents basic dance moves including elements demonstrating 'hand-washing steps' and inviting young people to repeat them.
- Education Hub, one of UNICEF Azerbaijan's NGO partners within the EU-supported project on community-based social services, organized a webinar on "[Effective partnership of a distant team in management of social projects](#)" with a focus on online management of social projects. Held on 28 May, the webinar reached 1,341 people (195 engaged).
- UNICEF continued a series of 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 fourth and fifth webinars, on Empathy and Active Listening, were held on 21 May and 4 June reaching 3,658 and 3,813 young people and their family members respectively through social media and messaging platforms. Most adolescent participants represented Vocational Education Schools from all over the country. Under the initiative of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the same sessions were also successfully repeated in Russian on 23 May and 6 June for a joint group of adolescents and youth from Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION SERVICES

- Social media posts developed and disseminated by the Public Health Reform Center (PHRC) on physical activity during the COVID-19 emergency and quarantine (46,513 reach), how to support young children during quarantine (42,907 reach), child nutrition recommendations and proper feeding-related hygiene (25,020 reach) and how mothers can protect a baby from COVID-19 (9,602 reach) reached over 124,000 people during the two weeks. 5,000 leaflets and 150 posters on breastfeeding and 5,000 leaflets and 150 posters on child nutrition were distributed among the target population and placed in supermarkets.
- 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 developing social skills in children through games and songs, importance of breastfeeding, child health issues (infant colic, vomiting, etc.), and a video on the overall concept of ECD and its importance, reaching around 6,000 people. A live session on child development with a child psychologist on 30 May reached 410 people, another session on autism spectrum disorders on 5 June was viewed by 223 people. 25,000 risk communication materials were distributed to 5,000 families in more than 20 districts, including 1,039 internally displaced families.
- As part of the project on psychological support for children in better adaptation during and after the COVID-19 period 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. In addition to the training on mental health and possible challenges of children and adolescents in schools in the post-COVID-19 period conducted on 20 May, the national Mental Health Centre with UNICEF's support held sessions on psychological first aid/crisis intervention after COVID-19 on 22 May, maintaining a healthy psychological environment at schools after the pandemic; bullying and stigma prevention on 25 May; development of effective cooperation between psychologists and the other educational process participants on 29 May; principles of psychological care for children and adolescents in the context of the pandemic, and establishing effective referral systems on 2 June. More than 20 child psychologists joined each session. Sessions equipped participants with practical skills in timely identification, intervention and proper referral for children with problems related to adaptation, mental health, stress and bullying.

ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING: EDUCATION

- Preschool education classes developed with the support of UNICEF Azerbaijan continue to be broadcast on two 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 120,000 children under 5 are estimated to have been reached during the period 27 May-7 June by the distance preschool education classes on television. The parenting education portal and cell phone application for parents, *ilk5il*, have reached over 6,000 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 started a detailed review and analysis of the Ministry of Education'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. The process over the next few weeks will lead to development of a roadmap for safe school reopening in the new school year and will address the main challenges emerging from the pandemic in student learning, teacher support, operations and health and safety.
- 8,000 packages were prepared and distributed by the Regional Development Public Union volunteers with learning and hygiene materials (painting books, soap, ruler, scissor, coloured papers, coloured pencils, plasticine, glue, face-paint, pencil sharpener) to support early learning at home for children aged 2-8 from internally displaced families in 11 districts (Baku, Absheron, Sumgayit, Ismayilli, Terter, Barda, Agjabedi, Bilasuvar, Yevlakh, Ganja, and Gazakh).

ACCESS TO CHILD PROTECTION AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE: CHILD PROTECTION

- Messages on positive parenting and coping with stress, targeting families affected by financial hardship, and/or 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 resources and via printed materials, reaching 6,802 people through social media, 560 on messaging platforms, and with 461 packages of printed materials distributed between 25 May-7 June.
- 142 children and 101 adults were provided with psychosocial support (psychological counselling through telephone, messaging platform, and VOIP) during 25 May-7 June.
- 205 calls were responded to by the Azerbaijan Child Helpline between 25 May-7 June, of which 42 calls were made by children and 163 by adults. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC)'s hotline handling less complex cases (refer to Azerbaijan Child Helpline in case they cannot provide necessary services for child issues) and broader COVID-19 related questions than the Azerbaijan Child Helpline received 571 calls, including young people, and addressed their questions mainly on how to access social assistance, psychosocial support for coping with stress, how to support children while schools are closed, how to prevent and respond violence against children. Azerbaijan CO provided technical guidance information on how to manage cases to both hotlines.

DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

- The fifth 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 67 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. Washing hands, wearing masks, avoiding close contact with people who has symptoms, taking vitamins and disinfection were applied as major prevention measures in weeks 6-7. Social distancing was among the least preventive measures used by the people (6 per cent).
- More than half of the respondents continued to believe that COVID-19 situation in the country will improve in the coming weeks.

Economic impacts:

- 26 per cent respondents borrowed money for food in weeks 6-7 compared to 30 per cent in weeks 4-5. One fourth of respondents (25 per cent) could afford lending 50 AZN compared to 28 per cent in weeks 4-5.
- Almost half of respondents began spending less in the previous weeks. At the same time, "I don't have anything to spend" decreased from 18 per cent (weeks 4-5) to 9 per cent (weeks 6-7).

- Percent of households taking food from store on credit remained almost the same (18 per cent) as in previous weeks (20 per cent).

Health impacts:

- Half of respondents who reported health issues could not access health facilities in weeks 6-7 (52 per cent) compared to previous weeks (17 per cent). 33 per cent out of them noted that health facility was closed due to COVID-19 and 17 per cent reported that health workers did not let them in.
- Percentage of respondents reported several people in their community got sick last week remained almost the same.
- Percentage of respondents reporting unusual increase in mortality in their community stayed the same as in previous weeks.

Nutrition impacts:

- 11 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 weeks. Almost half of households consumed meat-based food yesterday.
- Percentage of households having three meals yesterday had slightly increased in weeks 6-7 (51 per cent) compared to weeks 4-5 (48 per cent). This change could be due to Ramadan fasting during past month.

Mental health impacts:

- Percentage of respondents feeling themselves very unhappy in weeks 6-7 (6 per cent) has slightly decreased compared to weeks 4-5 (10 per cent). One fourth of respondents feeling themselves down, depressed and hopeless due to COVID-19 news, threats and restrictions in weeks 6-7 compared to one-third in weeks 4-5. There is a possible link between people feeling unhappy and depressed due to COVID-19 related news.
- Percentage of respondents thinking their quality of life stayed more or less the same compared to this time last week remained almost the same (67 per cent).
- Percentage of respondents mentioned having difficulty falling asleep decreased from 23 per cent (weeks 4-5) to 18 per cent (weeks 6-7).

Education impacts:

- One third of pre-school-aged children supported by homebased learning in weeks 6-7 and use of video conferencing as a main platform for home-based education by those 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 and use of video conferencing for distant learning by those 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:

- Percent of reported violence/theft in their family or community last week (3 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- Percent of parents used physical punishment against children (1 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- Spending time with children remained almost the same compared to previous weeks.

SUPPLY

- A bidding process for procurement of a second batch of food packages for 1,000 vulnerable families living in Baku, Absheron and other regions of Azerbaijan was finalized, and the contract signed with the selected company. The distribution of food packages is planned to start in the week of June 8 and will be completed over three days. ASAN volunteers will undertake the distribution.
- Sales Orders for ten oxygenators were approved by UNICEF's global Supply Division. The oxygenators will be available for shipment to the country on 15 June.
- 8,000 children's package delivered during reporting period: Refer to [Education section](#) for details.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

UN AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

- As part of the UN Country Team initiative to undertake a socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, UNICEF is leading two sectors, education and social protection and inclusion, coordinating inputs from other UN agencies including UNFPA, ILO, UNHCR, IOM and OHCHR. Initial methodology development and basic data collection are in progress.

COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

- UNICEF continued its fortnightly inputs to the coordination meeting between the UN and the Government's Operational Task Force, focused on risk communication. Key recommendations included refocusing messaging towards the losses likely to be

suffered by the population in terms of daily life (social activities, vacations, visiting friends and family) if key actions such as wearing of face masks and social distancing were not adequately followed, during the current easing of restrictions. The Task Force was also encouraged to focus more attention on communication with owners and managers of commercial enterprises now open to the public (such as restaurants, shopping facilities, salons and entertainment centres) to encourage compliance with the prevention measures by clients.

- The UN is still awaiting a response from the Government on the undertaking of the socio-economic assessment on the impact of COVID-19.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

Young people continue promoting covid-19 related information.

- <https://aqreqator.az/az/siyaset/795077>
- https://azertag.az/xeber/gencler_covid_19_ile_bagli_maariflendirme_islerini_davam_etdirirler-1499157
- https://azertag.az/xeber/edvard_karvardin_usaqlarin_olkenin_geleceyinin_formalasdirilmasinda_tam_istirak_edebilmesi_uchun_onlari_gorumagi_ohdemize_gotururuk-1501317
- <https://aqreqator.az/az/cemiyet/800880>

The ministry of education and UNICEF have launched “*oynayiriq ve oyrenirik*” (*we learn and play*) tv lessons for pre-school children:

- <http://baku.edu.gov.az/az/page/9/4897>
- <https://muallim.edu.az/news.php?id=11580>
- <http://www.azerbaijan-news.az/view-190591/azerbaycan-tehsilinin-pandemiya-sinagi>
- <https://azedu.az/az/news/30115-azerbaycan-tehsilinin-pandemiya-sinagi>

Within UNICEF and USAID joint campaign, parents find many informative materials for children:

- <https://news.milli.az/country/856165.html>
- <http://www.kaspi.az/az/heftesonu-karantin-gunlerimizi-nece-xos-kecire-bilerik>
- <https://az.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3250699.html>
- <https://sonxeber.az/177378/heftesonu-karantin-gunlerimizi-nece-xos-kecire-bilerik-mutexessis-meslehetleri>
- <http://son.az/az/news/655013/heftesonu-karantin-gunlerimizi-nece-xos-kecire-bilerik>
- <https://azedu.az/az/news/30232-heftesonu-karantin-gunlerimizi-nece-xos-kecire-bilerik-mutexessis-meslehetleri>
- <https://sonxeber.net/88131/heftesonu-karantin-gunlerimizi-nece-xos-kecire-bilerik-mutexessis-meslehetleri.html>

NEXT SIT REP: 24 JUNE 2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Edward Carwardine
Representative

Email: ecarwardine@unicef.org

Min Yuan
Deputy Representative
Tel: + 994(0)50 250 6102
Email: myuan@unicef.org

Jieun Yeom
M&E Officer
Tel: +994 (0)50 462 3143
Email: jyeom@unicef.org