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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 3,982 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 23 May, with 49 deaths and 2,506 recovered cases. The number of tests carried out as of 23 May had reached 265,067. Daily confirmed cases have increased noticeably since quarantine regimes were gradually eased since 11 May.
- The risk communication campaign supported by USAID continued with the following content on social media: "[Educational video for children part 1 – What is COVID-19?](#)" (127,758 reach), "[Educational video for children part 2 – How to protect yourself from COVID-19?](#)" (65,199 reach), and "[Book reading session with celebrities, Fuad Akhundov](#)" (1,178 reach)".
- Materials targeting young people with messages around "How to remain healthy while at home with [video on sport](#) and [video on dance](#)" reached 69,951 people.
- Communication activities with local NGOs continued. On 19 May, the [third online session about capacity building of volunteers](#) was held with 899 volunteers to discuss COVID-19 prevention during the lighter quarantine environment.
- On 19 May, [A Talk Show](#) on local public television was organized to discuss preventative actions to follow during the lighter quarantine measures, with representatives of UNICEF, Management Union of Medical Territorial Units (TABIB), and Regional Development Public Union.
- The third webinar of the remote Basic Life Skills programme, covering self-esteem, was held on 14 May reaching 3,842 young people and their family members through social media and messaging platforms. Under the initiative of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the same session was also successfully repeated in Russian on 16 May for a joint group of adolescents and youth from Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.
- The first online training session for psychologists working in schools was conducted on 20 May by the Mental Health Center of the Ministry of Health with UNICEF support and funded by USAID, as part of project on psychological support for children to aid adaptation during and after the COVID-19 period. 30 child psychologists joined the first session.
- At the request of the Ministry of Education UNICEF translated and shared materials and resources for children, teachers and parents on online safety and managing stress during isolation due to COVID-19. The materials will be used as a source for new resources to be elaborated by the Ministry of Education.
- The fourth rounds of weekly high-frequency surveys (collected between 4-17 May) 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.

Azerbaijan Country Office COVID-19 Situation Report No. 7

unicef 

hər bir uşaq üçün

Situation in Numbers (as of 23 May 2020)



3,982
COVID-19 cases



49
COVID-19 deaths



2,506
people recovered



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



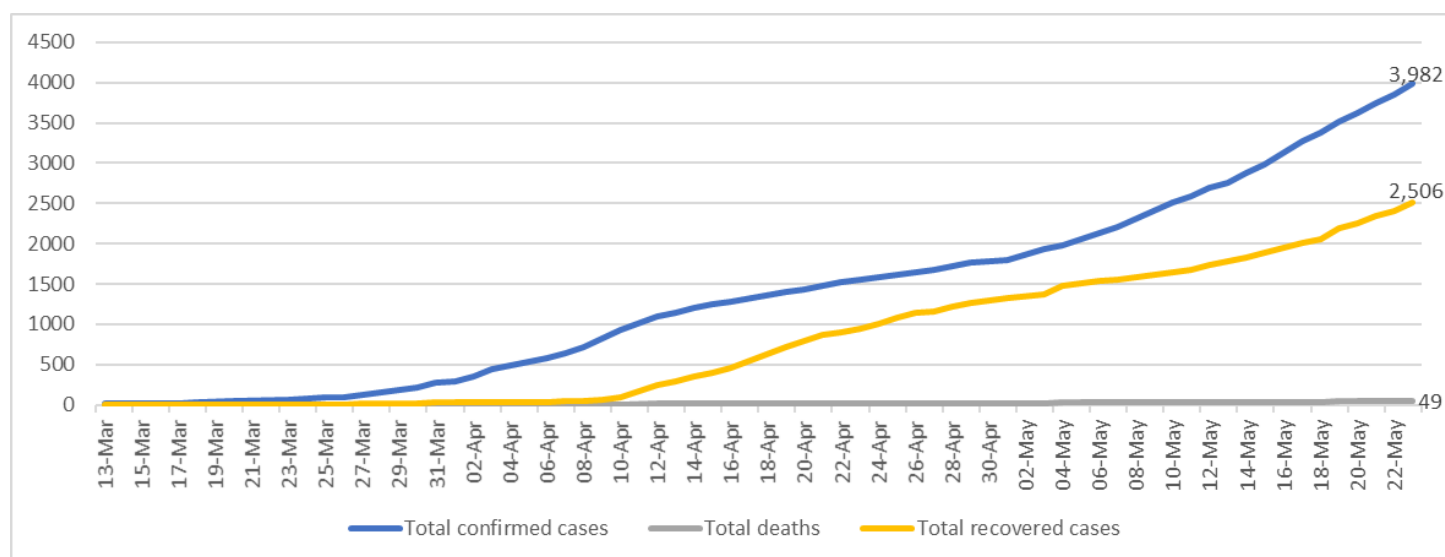
US\$ 1,235,185
Planned budget

US\$ 455,630
Funding gap

SITUATION OVERVIEW & HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

OVERALL SITUATION UPDATES

3,982 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed as of 23 May, with 49 deaths and 2,506 recovered cases. The number of tests carried out as of 23 May had reached 265,067.



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

- From 18 May the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers announced further softening of the special quarantine regime including abolishment of the requirement for prior permission to leave the residence, reopening of the boulevards, parks and recreation spaces, operations of restaurants, cafes, and tea houses (from 08:00 to 18:00 hours) and reopening of museums and exhibition centres.
- Daily potential production capacity for medical masks by national enterprises is now 500,000.

UNICEF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

- The risk communication campaign supported by USAID continued with the following content on social media: "[Educational video for children part 1 – What is COVID-19?](#)" (127,758 reach), "[Educational video for children part 2 – How to protect yourself from COVID-19?](#)" (65,199 reach), and "[Book reading session with celebrities, Fuad Akhundov](#)" (1,178 reach)".
- Materials targeting young people with messages around "How to remain healthy while at home with [video on sport](#) and [video on dance](#)" reached 69,951 people.
- UNICEF Azerbaijan co-hosted a live session on "self-evaluation" jointly reaching more than 3,482 young people and translated on six other Facebook pages simultaneously.
- Communication activities with local NGOs continued. On 19 May, the [third online session about capacity building of volunteers](#) was held with 899 volunteers to discuss COVID-19 prevention during the lighter quarantine regime. The session reminded the volunteers to follow the Volunteer Guidance, take all precautions when working with communities (keep 2-metre distance, wash hands often and wear a mask and a glove). A questions and answer session was organized for volunteers to provide comments on material distribution, field guides and positive and negative experiences observed while working with communities. Additional key messages were developed on taking precautions ways in public, and production and distribution of new static information materials will be undertaken in coming weeks by the partners.
- On 19 May, [A Talk Show](#) on local public television was organized to discuss preventative actions to follow during the eased quarantine period, with representatives of UNICEF, Management Union of Medical Territorial Units (TABIB), and Regional Development Public Union. The programme provided the general public with updated information about the current COVID-19 situation, the importance of personal health behaviours, and recommendations on how people should protect themselves during the lightened quarantine. Key messages included continue maintaining appropriate safety standards especially in public places.

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Education Hub, one of UNICEF Azerbaijan's NGO partners within the European Union supported project on community social services organized a webinar on "[Mental health reflections in the days of COVID-19 pandemic](#)" with a focus on coping with stress. Held on 15 May, the webinar reached 1,189 people (244 engaged) including volunteers distributing risk communication materials in the communities.
- UNICEF continued its series of interactive webinars on Basic Life Skills (known as BLS Remote) based on its face-to-face regular 16-lesson programme in the cross-country network of Youth Houses. The third webinar, on self-esteem, was held on 14 May reaching 3,842 young people and their family members through social media and messaging platforms. Under the initiative of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the same session was also successfully repeated in Russian on 16 May 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 (9,170 reach), how to support young children during quarantine (19,630 reach) and managing stress in children (13,548 reach) reached over 42,000 people. 3,500 flyers on hygiene precautions for breastfeeding mothers and 3,500 on child nutrition recommendations were distributed through local supermarkets and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. 100 posters on infant feeding and 100 posters on child nutrition were also placed in supermarkets. On 18 May, live sessions organized with a child psychologist on recommendation for parents reached 1,100 people. Another live session was organized on 22 May through social media platforms of PHRC and UNICEF with a child neurologist and development specialist, which also reached an audience of 1,100.
- NGO partner Regional Development Public Union continued provision of relevant information to parents on Early Childhood Development through its social media platforms: this included "developing social skills in children through games" (over 500 views), "father's role in child's development" (around 300 view); and a live session on child immunization, providing parents with the opportunity to ask questions related to vaccines and a child health issues. 471 people viewed this session. Another session with a child psychiatrist and development specialist will be organized on 23 May on positive parenting skills.
- The first online training session for psychologists working in schools on "Mental health and possible challenges of children and adolescents in schools in the post-COVID-19 period", funded by USAID, was conducted on 20 May by the national Mental Health Center with UNICEF's support, as part of project on psychological support for children in better adaptation during and after the COVID-19 period. 30 child psychologists joined the first sessions. A total of 5 sessions are planned, with practical tasks for psychologists to strengthen their capacities 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 broadcasted 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 55,000 children under 5 are estimated to have been reached during the period 18-21 May by the distance preschool education classes on television. The parenting education portal and cell phone application for parents, *ilk5il*, have reached over 3,000 parents over the last week with resources on early education and child development provided by UNICEF.
- At the request of the Ministry of Education UNICEF translated and shared materials and resources for children, teachers and parents on online safety and managing stress during isolation due to COVID-19. The materials will be used as a source for new resources to be developed by the Ministry of Education.

ACCESS TO CHILD PROTECTION AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE: CHILD PROTECTION

- Risk communication 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 6,313 people through social media, 2,110 on messaging platforms, and with 285 packages of printed materials distributed between 18-22 May.
- 114 children and 104 adults were provided with psychosocial support (psychological counselling through telephone, messaging platform, and VOIP) during 18-22 May.

DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

- The fourth round of weekly high-frequency surveys (collected between 4-17 May) 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.

Risk communication:

- Perception of the danger of the COVID-19 has remained the same as previous weeks; 69 per cent think it is unlikely that they will contract the coronavirus. Respondents believe that if you follow preventive measures and do not have a chronic illness you are unlikely to contract the virus.
- Choice of 'going to the health facility in case having COVID-19 symptoms' did not change since week 3, however 'calling for a doctor/ambulance' has increased compared to previous weeks (86 per cent).
- More than half of the respondents believe that COVID-19 situation in the country will improve in the coming weeks.

Economic impacts:

- Percentage of respondents who had to borrow money to buy food (30 per cent) remained similar to the previous weeks.
- Percentage of respondents who cannot afford lending 50 AZN to relatives who are in need (28 per cent) remained similar to the previous weeks.
- Almost half of the respondents starting spending less in the last two weeks and more than half of the respondent reported a decrease in their income in the last two weeks.
- Percentage of households taking food from the local store on credit has increased (20 per cent).

Health impacts:

- Percentage of households reporting health issues (mostly chronic) in one or more members of the household (25 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- One in four of respondents who reported health issue could not access to health facility due to COVID-19.
- Percentage of respondents hearing people getting sick in their community (8 per cent) remained the same with week 3.

Nutrition impacts:

- Percentage of the households mostly consuming the food groups 'bread, pasta and flour products' (89 per cent) remained the same with previous weeks.
- Consumption of meat-based food among households (43 per cent) remained similar to week 3.
- Percentage of the household having three meals per day has decreased since week 1 which could be due to Ramadan fasting. The indicator will be tracked to check if the status of this indicator changes.

Mental health impacts:

- Percentage of respondents feeling happy (63 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- Percentage of respondents reporting that the quality of life got worse (23 per cent) remained the same with week 3.
- Percentage of respondents feeling down and depressed due to COVID-19 related news and development (33 per cent) has slightly increased since week 3.

Education impacts:

- Percentage of pre-school aged children involved in home-based education (29 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks and use of the video conferencing platform as the main platform for home-based education among pre-school was increased compare to previous weeks (64 per cent).
- Percentage of school-aged children receiving home-based education (62 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks and use of the video conferencing platform for home learning was also increased (48 per cent) for school-aged children.
- Percentage of the households having access to the internet (69 per cent) remained the same as the previous weeks.

Child protection impacts:

- Percentage of reported violence/theft in their family or community last week (3 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- Percentage of parents used physical punishment against children (1 per cent) remained similar to previous weeks.
- Percentage of parents that did not spend time with their children (52 per cent) remained similar 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 undertaken.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

UN AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION.

- Technical discussions continued with UN partners on development of a rapid needs assessment in relation to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities, with UNICEF leading the social sector assessment process.

COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

- Nothing to report

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

https://azertag.az/xeber/ASAN_konulluleri_UNICEF_le_birge_sosial_yardimlari_davam_etdirirler-1492031

<http://www.asanradio.az/news/28290>

https://azvision.az/news/215052/asan-konulluleri-unicef-le-birge-sosial-yardimlari-davam-etdirir.html?fbclid=IwAR32QVUQeVyzY6duBeUr292_NEYqPTqGzoSCJsLBCdatlgpbTQuOt9-EGAY

<https://salamnews.org/az/news/read/384587?fbclid=IwAR3NMQ7zxvDdrq1zesSq0TUCvXqVbNIBQIG6LF3JIPaXgfOhB-pNUKftL3k>

NEXT SIT REP: 9 JUNE 2020

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