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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- As of May 1, 1,804 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, with 24 deaths and 1,325 recovered cases. The number of tests carried out so far has reached 143,079 as of 30 April.
- UNICEF Azerbaijan wrapped up its #LearnAtHome campaign, targeting parents with three more videos of a popular TV presenter [Kanan Hakimov](#) and [Jale Hasanli](#), as well as popular football player and captain of a football team Sabah FK [Ruslan Abishov](#) reaching more than 10,000 people on its social media platforms with more than 6,400 views.
- Continuous public information posts on social networks produced by the Public Health and Reform Centre of the Ministry of Health have reached an audience of over 117,000 people covering vaccination, nutrition, child safety, child feeding, and pregnancy during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Preschool education classes developed by the Institute of Education with support of UNICEF started on 23 April on two national television channels targeting children below the age of 5 nationwide. The first 4 TV classes have been broadcasted in the week, reaching to 55,000 preschool age children countrywide.
- 204 persons (parents of vulnerable families) were supported by social workers in 3 districts (Agjabadi, Ganja and Shirvan) to access social assistance lump-sum payment (US\$122) provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population; 57 children and 48 adults were provided with psychosocial support (psychological counselling through phone, messaging and VOIP platforms) this week.
- On 30 April, UNICEF Azerbaijan conducted another online session on Stress Management bringing together more than 50 adolescents and youth through an online webinar also livestreamed through UNICEF's social media page.
- The second round of weekly snapshot surveys to gain insights to public understanding and response to COVID-19, as well as a rapid impact assessment of COVID-19 on children and families, was undertaken with a total of 250 respondents. Results were shared with key government and international entities in the country to support refinement of messaging and strategic response planning.

Azerbaijan Country Office COVID-19 Situation Report No. 5

unicef 

hər bir uşaq üçün

Situation in Numbers (as of 1 May 2020)



1,804

COVID-19 cases



24

COVID-19 deaths



1,325

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

1,804 cases of COVID-19 has been confirmed as of 1 May, with 24 deaths and 1,325 recovered cases. The number of tests carried out so far has reached 143,079 as of 30 April.

Date	Total confirmed cases	Total deaths	Total recovered cases	People in the quarantine facilities at the time
13 March	19	1	3	-
16 March	25	1	6	-
17 March	25	1	6	-
18 March	34	1	10	-
20 March	44	1	10	-
23 March	65	1	10	-
24 March	72	1	10	Around 1,000
25 March	87	1	10	-
26 March	93	2	10	2,914
27 March	122	3	15	Over 3,000
30 March	209	4	15	-
31 March	273	4	26	4,085
1 April	297	5	26	-
2 April	359	5	26	4,518
3 April	443	5	32	4,321
6 April	584	7	32	-
7 April	641	7	44	-
8 April	717	8	44	-
9 April	822	8	63	Over 3,000
10 April	926	9	101	-
12 April	1,098	11	250	2,840
13 April	1,148	12	289	2,373
14 April	1,197	13	351	-
15 April	1,253	13	404	-
16 April	1,283	15	460	-
19 April	1,398	19	712	-
20 April	1,436	19	791	-
21 April	1,480	20	865	-
22 April	1,518	20	907	-
23 April	1,548	20	948	-
24 April	1,592	21	1,013	1,000
25 April	1,617	21	1,080	-
26 April	1,645	21	1,139	-
27 April	1,678	22	1,162	-
28 April	1,717	22	1,221	-
29 April	1,766	23	1,267	-
1 May	1,804	24	1,325	-

Table 1: Number of confirmed cases, deaths, recovered cases, people in the quarantine facilities due to COVID-19 in Azerbaijan

The Ministry of Education continues providing distance education to schoolchildren through televised classes with 1,000 classes delivered so far. The Virtual School digital platform for school children has already reached about 600,000 school children and 50,000 schoolteachers nationwide. Preschool education classes were launched on television on 23 April with the support of UNICEF.

UNICEF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

UNICEF Azerbaijan wrapped up its #LearnAtHome campaign, targeting parents with three more videos - of a popular TV presenter [Kanan Hakimov](#) and [Jale Hasanli](#), as well as popular football player and captain of a football team Sabah FK [Ruslan Abishov](#) reaching more than 10,000 people on its social media platforms with more than 6,400 views. Various games were shared over a 15-day period. All the games and videos were compiled under one [campaign page](#) on the UNICEF Azerbaijan website.

The risk communication campaign in partnership with USAID continued with [social media assets](#) and [television projects](#). The launch of the campaign attracted good media coverage (see below under the internal & external media section).

Videos developed jointly with the National Youth Foundation on the importance of social distancing and hygiene promotion, as well as videos by celebrities talking about the importance of staying at home, were posted on social media this week, reaching 5,300 people with more than 17,500 views in total.

The total reach on social media this week was 999,147 people (988,280 on Facebook; 10,867 on Instagram)

Volunteers of the NGO partner Regional Development Public Union - RiB started to distribute UNICEF-designed awareness-raising materials together with its own food distribution initiative to vulnerable families. All volunteers received online training using the global guidance on “Key Tips and Discussion Points for community workers, volunteers and community networks” before visiting households.

Supported by UNICEF, this week RiB also held a live session on its social media page to refresh 377 volunteers’ knowledge about COVID-19 and its prevention, about the materials and target audiences, and details of the international guidelines for volunteers and community workers in the field. There will be ten live sessions on different topics in the coming weeks. A messaging group was created by RiB involving all volunteers, to support safety measures and coordination in the field work. Volunteers also received information sessions about the COVID-19 pandemic provided by local health professionals.

An additional 154,550 copies of awareness-raising materials were produced this week to be disseminated to districts in the coming weeks through NGO partners and volunteers.

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

During the reporting period, 6,246 adolescents and youth (4,048 on Facebook and 2,198 on Instagram) were reached with risk communication messages through a joint initiative between UNICEF, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through 11 Youth Houses, and the National Association of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA) as key dissemination platforms.

<https://www.facebook.com/binagadi.ge/photos/a.392783557780375/1178395165885873/?type=3&theater>
<https://www.facebook.com/MingecevirGenclerEvi/>
<https://www.facebook.com/qazaxgikm/photos/a.2331875927090425/2662905287320819/?type=3&theater>

In parallel, a set of video assets on prevention of COVID-19, including through engagement of celebrities, produced by the National Youth Foundation generated more than 17,500 views and 5,300 likes.

On 30 April, UNICEF conducted another online session on Stress Management bringing together more than 50 adolescents and youth from all over the country through a webinar also livestreamed through UNICEF’s social media page. Being the first in a series of six remote Basic Life Skills sessions, specially developed to support adolescents’ mental health during periods of uncertainty, stress and instability, the session triggered genuine interest from the participants who actively shared their thoughts and experiences in the chat box and through an online poll. Under the initiative of the UNICEF

Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, a multi-country session targeting adolescents and youth of other Russian-speaking countries has been scheduled on 2 May.

Local NGO partners implementing the joint UNICEF-European Union initiative on community-based services have also continued contributing to the COVID-19 response. Junior Achievement Azerbaijan (JAA) conducted online Training of Trainers for specialists of six Youth Houses and Youth Development and Career Centres, followed by online trainings on career orientation for 112 (73 female and 39 male) young participants from six districts. In addition, JAA conducted a one-hour webinar on Career Planning and Professional Development While in Isolation. Conversations focused on how the world of work is changing and the new normality and working format, advantages of digital learning and opportunities offered by many leading e-learning tools due to COVID-19. Some guidance was provided on how youth can plan their professional development while being active even at home. A total of 22 young participants, mainly from the regions of Sheki, Qazakh, Lankaran, Masally and Bilasuvar benefitted from the webinar.

PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Social media platforms on parenting counselling and education jointly launched by UNICEF and Regional Development Public Union (RiiB) of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation (<https://www.facebook.com/eudiazerbaijan/> and https://www.instagram.com/eudi_azerbaijan/) have already attracted over 12,500 followers within two weeks. Social media posts on “What is child development?”, “Why early development is important?”, “Do children catch coronavirus?”, “Why fathers’ engagement is important for child development?”, “Child’s development milestones at 1, 2 and 3 months”, “Impact of television and internet on child development”, “Benefits of breastmilk”, “COVID impact on child health”, “Tips for parents on dealing with stress” had reached an audience of 11,600 people as of 29 April.

The first online live session through social media with a paediatrician was conducted on 25 April with a cumulative audience of 274 people. The main topic was on early childhood development, COVID-19 and child health.

Continuous public information posts on social media networks produced by the Public Health and Reform Centre of the Ministry of Health have reached an audience of over 117,000 people, covering topics on “Vaccination of children during COVID-19 emergency” (26,171), “Importance of healthy nutrition during self-isolation” (24,589), “Child safety and security at home during COVID” (2,443), “How to feed infants” (22,352) and “Pregnancy during COVID” (20,974).

ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING: EDUCATION

Preschool education classes developed by the Institute of Education with the support of UNICEF started on 23 April on two national television channels targeting children below the age of 5 nationwide. The first four televised classes have been broadcast in the last week with an estimated reach of 55,000 preschool age children countrywide. The preschool education classes offer an opportunity for children to continue learning and provide young children and their families with play ideas in support of early child development at home. The early education videos are also available at the Parenting Education Portal (<https://www.ilk5il.az/az/index>) supported by UNICEF.

More parenting education materials, including on how to engage young children in effective learning at home in a meaningful way, keeping safe daily routines, address behavioural issues and provide new play ideas are now available for parents and families at the parenting education portal and cell phone application for parents, *ilk5il*, supported by UNICEF, reaching more than 2,000 parents over the last week.

A guidance document for schoolteachers with recommended pedagogical strategies and techniques has been developed by UNICEF to provide professional support to teachers in addressing the learning needs of school children with learning difficulties and slow learners. The guidance document was developed within the framework of the EU-funded project on Inclusive Education and will be presented to teachers through virtual platforms as of 4 May.

ACCESS TO CHILD PROTECTION AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE: CHILD PROTECTION

Risk communication messages, including positive parenting and coping with stress, using online resources and distribution of printed materials were disseminated by NGO partners in the three pilot districts (Agjabadi, Ganja and Shirvan). 7,493 people received messages through the NGOs' social media pages, 6,767 through messaging platforms, and 62 through telephone calls. 535 packages of printed materials were distributed. 204 parents in vulnerable families were supported by social workers in the three districts to access to the COVID-19 social assistance of a lump-sum payment (190 Manats) provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population; 57 children and 48 adults were provided with psychosocial support (psychological counselling through telephone, messaging platforms and VOIP)

With the support of UNICEF and the European Union, ASAN volunteers continue delivery of basic food items, hygiene supplies and risk communication materials to an additional 88 families, including those with children returning from care institutions and children with disabilities.

DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

The second round of weekly snapshot surveys to gain insights to public understanding and response to COVID-19, as well as rapid impact assessment of COVID-19 on children and families, was completed with 250 respondents. Results were shared with key government and international entities in the country to support refinement of messaging and strategic response planning.

Risk Communication:

- Percent of respondents thinking that 'it is unlikely that they will get sick with COVID-19' has increased from 57 per cent to 66 per cent.
- Percentage of the age groups 50-59 and 60-69 and females who think 'it is unlikely that they will get sick with COVID-19' has increased since week 1.
- The top four communication channels used to receive information on COVID-19 remained unchanged: Television (95 per cent), Instagram (38 per cent), Facebook (30 per cent) and WhatsApp (16 per cent).

Economic Impacts:

- Percentage of respondents who had to borrow money to buy food did not change significantly since the previous week (32 per cent to 28 per cent).
- Percentage of respondents who cannot afford to lend 50 Manats to relatives who are in need remained similar to week 1 (76 per cent to 79 per cent).
- Percentage of households receiving any kind of support from the government in the previous week has increased from 4 per cent to 16 per cent.
- The needs of households for cash assistance has increased from 41 per cent to 50 per cent, and for food assistance the proportion remained similar to week 1 (19 per cent to 14 per cent).

Health Impacts:

- Percentage of households reporting health issues amongst one or more members of the household has changed from 26 per cent to 18 per cent.
- Percentage of households who did not have access to a health facility due to COVID-19 remained similar to week 1 (14 per cent to 11 per cent).
- Percentage of respondents hearing of people getting sick and dying in their community remained more or less the same at 4 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

Mental Health Impacts:

- Percentage of respondents feeling happy increased from 54 per cent to 64 per cent.
- Percentage of respondents (32 per cent) reporting that the quality of life got worse has not changed since week 1.
- Percentage of respondents feeling down and depressed due to COVID-19 related news and development has decreased from 45 per cent to 33 per cent.
- The finding of the first week 'most of the people who reported 'unhappy' reported being 'depressed due to COVID-19' as well' remained unchanged.
- Percentage of respondents having some difficulties falling asleep last week has remained similar to week 1 (22 per cent to 24 per cent).

Nutrition Impacts:

- Percentage of households mostly consuming the food groups 'bread, pasta and flour products' has increased from 78 per cent to 86 per cent.

- Percentage of respondents having three meals per day decreased from 75 per cent to 62 per cent.

Education Impacts:

- Percentage of pre-school aged children involved in distant/home-based education decreased from 37 per cent to 26 per cent.
- Percentage of school-aged children receiving distant/home-based education decreased from 76 per cent to 67 per cent.
- Use of messaging platform for distant/home learning platform has increased for both pre-school and school aged children.
- Percentage of the households having access to internet remained the same 73 per cent.

Child Protection Impacts:

- Percentage of reported violence/theft in their family or community last week has not changed (2 per cent).
- Percentage of (2 per cent) parents used physical punishment and (6 per cent) shouted at children has not changed.
- Percentage of parents that did not spend time with their children has significantly increased from 12 per cent to 48 per cent.

SUPPLY

Procurement of 15,000 high-fil, FFP2/N95, no valve, nonsterile masks from the local market was finalized and the distribution will start from next week.

The Country Office supported the customs clearance process for syringes and safety boxes to be sent to the Innovation and Supply Center of the Ministry of Health by the UNICEF Supply Division.

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

UNICEF Azerbaijan updated the COVID-19 Response Plan with total budget of US\$1,235,185 with US\$ 455,630 funding gap remaining

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

Coverage of Risk Communication campaign with USAID, produced by Baku Media Center

1. <https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3228490.html>
2. <https://news.day.az/society/1227441.html>
3. <https://media.az/society/1067773630/baku-media-center-sovmestno-s-predstavitelstvom-yunisef-zapuskaet-proekt-v-svyazi-s-pandemiyey-covid-19-foto/>
4. <https://bit.ly/2SjZYVM>
5. <https://aqreqator.az/ru/obshchestva/716997>
6. <https://azertag.az/xeber/UNICEF-in-Azərbaycan-numayendeliyi-COVID-19-pandemiyasi-ile-bagli-maariflendirme-layihesine-baslayir-1470853>
7. <https://1news.az/az/mobile/news/unicef-in-azerbaycan-numayendeliyi-covid-19-pandemiyasi-ile-bagli-maariflendirme-layihesine-baslayir>
8. https://apa.az/az/sosial_xeberler/UNICEF-in-Azərbaycan-numayndliyi-COVID-19-la-bagli-maariflndirm-layihsin-baslayir-583218
9. <https://az.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3228487.html>
10. <https://news.day.az/az/society/1227425.html>
11. <https://report.az/sosial-mudafie/covid-19-la-bagli-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir/>
12. <http://www.xalqcebhəsi.az/news/accident/45967.html>
13. <https://fins.az/az/tibb/234584/covid-19-la-bali-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir/>

14. <https://www.xeberoxu.az/UNICEF-in-Azerbaycan-numayendeliyi-COVID-19-pandemiyasi-ile-bagli-maariflendirme-layihesine-baslayir/20200423210004742>
15. <https://www.xeberoxu.az/Rektor-Nilgunun-olumu-ile-bagli-bassagligi-verdi/20200423210004742>
16. <https://median.az/index.php?newsid=116356>
17. <https://modern.az/az/news/236507>
18. <https://open.az/daxili-siyaset/covid-19-la-bagli-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir.html>
19. <https://aqregator.az/az/cemiyet/716852>
20. <https://naxcivanxeberleri.com/cemiyet/32008-unicef-in-azrbaycan-numayndliyi-covid-19-pandemiyasi-il-bagli-maariflndirm-layihsin-baslayir.html>
21. <https://sonxeber.net/75517/unicef-in-azerbaycan-numayendeliyi-covid-19-pandemiyasi-ile-bagli-maariflendirme-layihesine-baslayir.html>
22. https://axsam.az/?name=xeber&news_id=115657
23. <http://son.az/az/news/637673/covid-19-la-bagli-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir>
24. <http://teref.az/karusel/150012-covid-19-la-bagli-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir.html>
25. <https://sfera.az/covid-19-la-bagli-daha-bir-maariflendirme-layihesi-baslayir/>

NEXT SIT REP: 15 MAY 2020

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