Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on risk communication; provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers; and mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- Strong advocacy campaign continued for the safe reopening of school with: a video about the first day of school in Sagarejo, Georgia, where children were able to return to classrooms; photo stories of children on their experiences with school reopening; UNICEF Representative’s visit to the mountainous village of Makhuntseti with the Minister of Education of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara focused on the importance of access to digital education for every child in Georgia. The campaign gave a voice to children to express their thoughts on distance learning, schools, and friendship - Video of two friends – Nina and Nina; Anastasia and Sandro – brother and sister.
- With the financial support of USAID and in partnership with NCDC and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, UNICEF is
organizing a second meeting with media representatives on COVID-19 – aiming to raise awareness of journalists and producers about the evolving situation, prevention measures, and regulations to respond to the pandemic.

- UNICEF-led digital campaign for young people continued with social media posts related to school reopening using fun memes, posters and articles about the necessity of wearing face-masks, keeping distance, and getting ready for going back to schools.

- A new initiative - online discussion with parents for children aged 6-12 has begun for identifying challenges in communication brought by the pandemic, which engaged over 3,700 parents, and reached more than 21,000 people.

- Seven regional TV channels broadcasted 14 special news programs, totaling 74 editions on COVID-19 updates, protective measures, and guidelines. Minority language TV channels, Marneuli and Parvana, aired additional ten programs (totaling 60 programs) on the topic in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. Nearly one million viewers were reached via TV broadcasting and over 14,000 viewers on social media channels of the given TV stations.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF Georgia reached 452,394 people on topics about COVID-19 through Facebook.

**Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- As a part of the immediate response to increased cases of COVID-19 in the Adjara region, UNICEF Representative and Minister of Health of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara discussed support to the families with pregnant women and young children affected by COVID-19.

- UNICEF’s virtual antenatal care programme reached 21,400 pregnant women, out of which around 34% participated in virtual medical consultations. To date, the programme covered red zones, such as Bolnisi, Gardabani, Marneuli, and Vani, as well as the entire pregnant population of Tbilisi, Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Kakhet, and Mtskheta - Mtkianeti regions.

- UNICEF delivered 300 Cephid COVID-19 molecular test kits and two oxygenators to the Abkhazia region for further distribution to local children’s medical facilities.

- With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) expert arrived in the Abkhazia region to support the renovation of WASH-related infrastructure in schools.

**Adolescents/youth**

- During the reporting period, youth volunteers contributed 6,929 hours to peer learning, online training, workshops, film screening, organized activities for older people, making new friends, breaking out of the cycle of social isolation and loneliness, and more.

- Volunteer stories were prepared and disseminated through Facebook, reaching 14,100 people.

- A total of 50 adolescents met with the President of Georgian-American University - Mr. Michael Cowgill, who spoke about leadership and shared his experiences through the online meeting.

- 50 parents attended an online coaching session on effective communication between parents and adolescents conducted by the professional trainer.

- UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP), continues a series of online webinars for adolescents and their parents, covering the topic on Mindfulness – the art of conscious attention, reaching 455 views.

**Child Protection**

- In partnership with the Parliament and State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” continues to provide assistance to children and their families, supporting 820 cases to date, of which 727 already received assistance and were closed accordingly. There is an increase in the number of cases related to violence against children, reaching a total of 55.

- UNICEF launched a new partnership with NGO Initiative for Social Changes (ISC) and the Office of Resource Officers under the Ministry of Education for the development of guidelines and training of trainers for identification and response to violence against children within the educational system.

- UNICEF partner ISC started training and supervision sessions for social workers and psychologists from State Care Agency on burn-out prevention.

- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia, provided online psychological support to 297 children and 211 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, in all regions of Georgia. During the reporting period, the following topics were covered: distress caused by COVID-19; emotional state of children; anxiety due to restrictions/isolation; conflict management; violence; and challenging behavior.
UNICEF held a workshop in Batumi with the Mufti and Muslim religious leaders of Georgia to discuss the cooperation progress on protection and promotion of child rights amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF held a meeting with the Public Defender’s Office in Kutaisi, Imereti, to discuss the challenges affecting vulnerable families due to the OCVID-19 pandemic, including arising problem of child labor.

UNICEF supported social workers delivered agricultural equipment, nutrition packages and hygiene kits to 20 most vulnerable families in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Education

The Ministry of Education of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the International Federation of the Red Cross and UNICEF will partner to improve access to online education for vulnerable children in the region.

UNICEF, in close collaboration with NCDC, is supporting MoESCS in the safer reopening of schools, including the development of child-friendly posters on COVID-19 preventive measures for use in preschools and primary schools.

With UNICEF support and in partnership with CK-12 Foundation, Education for All Coalition is translating and adapting interactive and online teaching and learning resources for students and teachers of Georgia.

**WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target by 31 December 2020</th>
<th>Result March - September 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>24,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counseling and/or parenting support</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>34,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by the Government to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>260,650</td>
<td>253,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,001,399</td>
<td>1,589,300</td>
<td>1,412,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>241,950</td>
<td>158,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,415,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,574,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,841,399</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnerships

UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UKAid, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 9 October 2020

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