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

- An online discussion for parents of teenagers aged 12-18, reached 1,793 parents, out of whom over 160 expressed their thoughts and concerns. Based on the received information, a psychologist developed a special note to assist parents in improving their communication skills while talking to their teenage children, especially amid the stress caused by the pandemic.
- Seven regional TV channels broadcasted 14 special news programmes, totaling 116 editions on COVID-19 updates and protective measures. Minority language TV channels, Marneuli and Parvana, aired an additional 10 TV programmes (totaling 90 editions) in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages, reaching 225,000 viewers and 85,000 viewers via Facebook pages.
On World Mental Health Day, advocacy messages on the importance of open communication about mental health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, were amplified on UNICEF social media channels. A Facebook post and the articles - How Teenagers Can Protect Their Mental Health During Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Supporting Teenagers’ Mental Health reached more than 15,000 users during the day.

International Day of the Girl was celebrated with a story of two volunteer girls from Gori (participants of the UNICEF-led volunteering project), who hand-made face masks and distributed to those who could not afford one. UNICEF continued advocating for the safe reopening of schools and preschools with a photo web-story and web-feature, telling a story of 2 families, as well as a preschool teacher, who shared their experiences on how they coped with the lockdown.

Two teenagers from the Tserovani IDP settlement, Ana and Vako, shared their stories in vlogs on how they coped with the changed reality since the break out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Voices of youth were also shared on UNICEF global channels (Ana, Vako).

Digital campaigns for young people continued with social media posts and information on COVID-19 prevention via quizzes, fun videos, and memes. The campaign encourages young people to engage with their experiences of how they use preventive measures.

UNICEF risk communication reached 179,041 people through Facebook on COVID-19 issues.

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

UNICEF’s virtual antenatal care program reached 24,520 pregnant women, out of which around 32% participated in virtual medical consultations. To date, the programme covers almost all regions in Georgia.

UNICEF, in partnership with MoIDPLHSA and NCDC, initiated an assessment of COVID-19 prevention and control measures in the maternity houses across the country. Assessors’ teams have already assessed three maternities in Kakheti, four in Shida and Kvemo Kartli, and three in Imereti-Racha-Lechkhumi regions. Assessment reports with the recommendations are duly submitted and serve as a basis for the follow-up training on IPC for the maternity personnel.

In Abkhazia, Georgia, all 153 schools and 40 kindergartens received 15,360 liters of disinfectant, 2000 liters of hand sanitizer, 15,360 liters of antibacterial soap, and 576 non-contact thermometers.

Adolescents/youth

During the reporting period, youth volunteers contributed 980 hours to peer education, distance learning, and social activities, such as the following: (1) feeding homeless animals, volunteering with homeless children, supporting homeless and elderly citizens; (2) conducting an information campaign on volunteering issues, popularizing the idea of volunteering, organizing entertainment meetings with local communities to reduce the stress caused by the pandemic, showing movies, sports activities for young people, online creative competition; (3) conducting information campaigns to prevent the spread of the virus, volunteers sew and distribute reusable masks free of charge to locals, charitable activities, assistance to socially vulnerable families, and cognitive activities for people with disabilities; (4) prepared visual materials, 20 stories on volunteer activities and disseminated through Facebook. The newly established volunteering platform (www.youth.volunteering.ge) and information portal (www.pia.ge) reached 17,269 people.

UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP), continues a series of online webinars for adolescents and their parents, covering the topic of visible and invisible types of violence, risks, threats, consequences, reaching 9,700 views.

A total of 25 parents attended an online coaching session on Parental Emotion and Emotional Connection between Parents and Adolescents conducted by the representative of Coach’s International Association in Georgia.

Child Protection

With support from USAID, UNICEF delivered personal safety and hygiene supplies to the National Probation Agency, the Legal Aid Service, and State Care Agency, to create a safer environment for children, young people, social workers, caregivers, and probation staff.
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 998 cases to date, of which 888 already received assistance and were closed accordingly.

UNICEF partner, Initiatives for Social Change (ISC), provided training and supervision sessions for social workers and psychologists from the State Care Agency and the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation (Probation Agency) covering (1) the prevention of professional stress and burn out; (2) social work in emergencies; and/or (3) mental health.

Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia, provided online psychological support to 343 children and 255 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, covering all regions of Georgia.

UNICEF partner, RHEA Union, provided developmental activities for children and young people with disabilities in Akhalkalaki and Aspindza, including a puppet workshop and training for local teachers.

A Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities continues to provide practical information, one-to-one counseling with specialists, and chats for parents and caregivers, engaging more than 137,000 people.

Education

The Ministry of Education of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and UNICEF are partnering 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 continues to translate and adapt interactive and online teaching and learning resources for students and teachers of Georgia. Following the joint initiative and effort, the Education for all Coalition, CK-12 Foundation, and UNICEF already created a webpage to assist Georgian students in the distance learning process on the CK-12 Platform.

WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

On 13 October, UNICEF donated critical hygiene and infection prevention supplies to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation (National Probation Agency) of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Aid Service, and the State Care Agency to support the Government in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia.

The supplies were procured with financial support from USAID and included face shields, digital thermometers, gowns, disinfecting barriers, and sanitizing liquids.

Peter Wiebler: “This personal protective equipment will enable the staff of the National Probation Agency to carry out their important work in support of Georgia’s youth, including some of the country’s most vulnerable.”

The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Justice – Mr. Giorgi Pataridze, the Head of the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation – Ms. Tatia Khocholava, the USAID/Georgia Mission Director – Mr. Peter Wiebler, and the UNICEF Representative – Dr. Ghassan Khalil.

The supplies provided will ensure that juvenile probationers and children involved in diversion and mediation programmes, as well as social workers, caregivers, and probation staff, will continue their daily activities in a safer environment, protected from COVID-19.
Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
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<td>Grand Total</td>
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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 23 October 2020

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