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Reporting Period: 16-30 September 2020

Highlights

- The Government will be re-opening schools, for 26 million children using a phased approach in the period from 19 October until 9 November 2020. UNICEF has mobilized US\$ 7.5 million to be used to support school re-opening preparations. This will include the installation of WASH facilities, teacher training activities (for catch up classes and identification as well as preliminary support for children with psychosocial problems) and provision of school supplies. Over 6 million children and over 2,000 schools will benefit directly from UNICEF support. For handwashing facilities in particular 420,000 children are targeted to be reached in 700 schools.
- UNICEF procured and handed over 380 oxygen concentrators to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) with financial support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). These oxygen concentrators will be used for the treatment of moderate to severe COVID-19 cases and will be crucial in the future for treating children with respiratory problems.
- With COVID-19 related funding, since March 2020, a total of 64,137 Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children, have been admitted for treatment and 245,385 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months and 24-59 months have received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling through facilities and community platforms.

Epidemiological Overview¹

As of 30 September, Ethiopia had 75,368 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 1,272,352 sample tests conducted and 31,204 recovered. In addition, 1,198 deaths were reported, while 269 people were in critical condition. As of 30 September, a total 729 people (127 in hotels in Addis Ababa and 602 in Addis Ababa University) were under mandatory quarantine, and 26,156 people having completed the 14 days follow-up had been discharged. Since the start of the Home-Based Isolation and Care (HBIC) management system of asymptomatic and mild cases in mid-July, a total 18,513 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been followed up through this system.

Funding Overview

UNICEF Ethiopia's COVID-19 response plan is costed at US\$49 million and currently has a 23 per cent funding gap. The plan supports the government in health (procurement of essential supplies, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and essential drugs, and the overall primary health care system), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), and access to WASH products and services. Furthermore, it addresses the secondary impact of COVID-19 across sectors such as education (remote learning and preparations for the re-opening of schools), nutrition (prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition) and child protection (case management, psychosocial support and

¹ Please note that, the data sources for the Epidemiological Overview section are [Minister of Health updates @lia_tadesse](#), and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) Daily Sitrep No. 246.

ETHIOPIA

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 19

16-30 September 2020



Situation in Numbers



75,368 confirmed cases



269 in critical condition

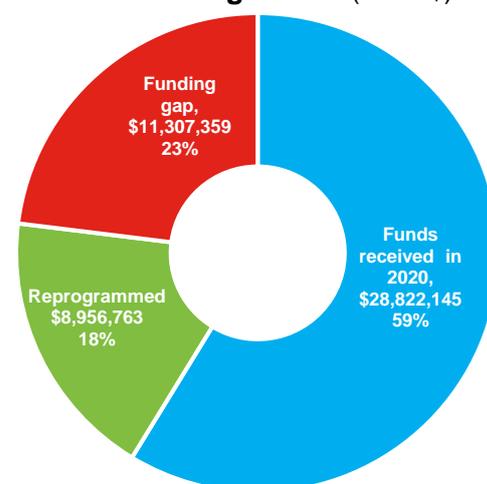


1,198 deaths



31,204 recoveries

Funding Status (in US\$)



interim care/family tracing and re-unifications). The plan also includes the development of tools to strengthen accountability to affected populations and to ensure that beneficiaries are protected from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) through monitoring, strengthening professional capacity, and establishing complaints mechanisms.

Situation Overview

Government announces the official re-opening of school starting from October

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has officially announced that schools will begin to re-open by following a phased approach from 19 October until 9 November for 26 million children. In phase one, schools in rural *woredas* and *kebeles* will open (on 19 October). Then in phase two, schools in regional towns and zones, will open on 26 October. Lastly in phase three, schools in Addis Ababa and the surrounding zones of Oromia are expected to re-open on 9 November.

The decision to re-open schools in Ethiopia, as much as in other countries, has been a controversial issue. However, during the period of the State of Emergency, which was announced in April and lasted until September, only a fraction of the children in the country were able to access online and distance learning (approximately 5.2 million). Children in rural areas were particularly affected by school closures, because of the existing digital divide². According to the findings of a recently conducted [phone survey](#)³ by staying out of school, not only are children not learning, they are also forgetting what they have learnt and their academic performance might worsen (31 per cent of the teachers interviewed in urban areas expressed this concern). Children are also at-risk of permanently dropping out of school (41 per cent of the teachers interviewed in rural areas expressed this concern) as well as being unable to access school feeding programs and facing deprivation of a safe and secure environment essential for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Although an entirely risk-free re-opening of schools is impossible, UNICEF is providing technical and financial support in preparation for their safe re-opening. UNICEF has deployed two consultants on a full-time basis to the MoE to provide technical assistance. Outputs of this support have included: the development of re-opening guidelines, strategies, protocols, a re-opening checklist, a school re-opening survey, and joint communication planning between the MoE and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH). UNICEF has mobilized US\$ 7.5 million to support the safe re-opening of schools. This support includes the installation of WASH equipment, including a leg-propelled handwashing facility, teacher training on infection, prevention and control (IPC), school supplies and communication for development (C4D) activities. Over 6 million children and over 2,000 schools will benefit directly from one or more UNICEF-supported interventions including distance/blended learning. Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) are heavily engaged in school re-opening preparations. All regions have now established structures or coordination bodies to facilitate the process of re-opening, including regional, zonal and *woreda* coordination committees.

Conflict-sensitive approaches are at the centre of UNICEF Ethiopia's COVID-19 Response

During the reporting period, field offices reported that conflict (civil unrest and inter-communal violence) in some areas continued to impede effective COVID-19 response efforts. In an effort to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of the ongoing COVID-19 response, UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office (ECO) organized an internal working session to introduce key elements of conflict sensitivity as a minimum requirement to the implementation of the COVID-19 response. The sensitisation exercise brought together over 20 colleagues from field coordination and emergency, programme sections, communications, and field offices, to examine practical ways to apply key conflict sensitive approaches and tools aimed at strengthening the ongoing COVID-19 response. Actions identified moving forward include: ensuring equity in the distribution of supplies and WASH interventions with a special focus on underserved populations; close monitoring of media to identify misinformation and perceptions of communities; ensuring communications are culturally sensitive and inclusive and that local community groups are engaged to enhance the relevance of the programs; and ensuring that women community groups and youth volunteers from targeted communities are engaged. Follow-up sessions will be held in priority regions to roll out relevant programme adaptations and document their impact.

Preparedness and response actions

Health

In the reporting period⁴, UNICEF continued supporting national and sub-national Emergency Operation Centre (EoC) coordination platforms for the COVID-19 response at the federal, regional, and city administration levels, through four

²According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 2016: access of urban population of radio is 44 per cent; of TV it is 60 per cent; of mobile phones it is 88 per cent. Similarly, access of rural population of radio is 24 per cent; of TV it is 2 per cent; of mobile phones it is 47 per cent. The report is accessible at: <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr328-dhs-final-reports.cfm>

³The phone survey was conducted by the University of Cambridge, Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) and Addis Ababa University with 127 school principals and 316 teachers from 127 schools, across seven diverse regional states and one city administration (Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), Somali and Tigray and Addis Ababa), in both rural and urban locations.

⁴Please note that, the 'reporting period' of all the results described in this Sitrep runs from 7 - 18 September 2020, unless otherwise specified in the narrative or footnotes.

health emergency consultants and 15 RCCE Technical Assistants (TAs). The health emergency consultants provide technical support on COVID-19 preventive and control measures, participate in different coordination meetings, support training of health workers and prepare and adapt RCCE materials. In addition, they monitor the support being provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF procured with the financial support from USAID and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) 380 oxygen concentrators and handed them over to the FMOH. Oxygen concentrators are medical equipment that filter the surrounding air and compress it to the required density to deliver purified medical oxygen to patients needing respiratory support. The oxygen concentrators will be used for the treatment of moderate to severe COVID-19 cases and in the longer term, they will be used for the treatment of children affected by respiratory infections, such as pneumonia, which is one of the leading causes of child deaths in Ethiopia. Among the 380 oxygen concentrators, 213 were targeted for regions that are densely populated including, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP. The remaining oxygen concentrators will be distributed amongst health facilities in Addis Ababa, including 100, which have been sent to the recently inaugurated St. Peter's Hospital.

During the reporting period, UNICEF has procured and distributed PPE to 6,000 health workers. This includes surgical masks in packs of 50 (quantity 2,000); isolation gowns in packs of 10 (quantity 1,000); surgical caps in packs of 100 (quantity 30,000); surgical gowns (quantity 6,000) and N95 masks in packs of 20 (quantity 4,380). This new distribution of PPE means that UNICEF has directly provided PPE for 15,119 health care staff, including 119 working in refugee settings. In addition, in the reporting period, 90 health care staff, 30 of whom work in refugee settings, were trained in IPC methods, bringing the cumulative number of trained health care staff in IPC to 2,208, including 714 who work with refugees.

Furthermore, UNICEF continues to support third-party monitors in 250 health care facilities in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions, to monitor the provision of essential health care services including any disruptions to Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) services because of the COVID-19 outbreak. They monitor the availability of staff, as well as the availability of key commodities such as medicines and demand for services. Preliminary data recorded a dip in the continuation of essential health services in March and April. However, since April, essential health services are being recorded as being back to pre-COVID-19 service levels.

Communication for Development (C4D)

During the reporting period, 1.9 million people (including 16,832 refugees, mainly in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions) were engaged in RCCE activities on COVID-19 prevention, through house-to-house visits led by community volunteers. The total number of people engaged through such measures since March 2020 reached 10 million, including 150,149 refugees.

To date, 44.6⁵ million people have been reached through various RCCE activities, including 613,104 refugees. A recent example includes, the production and placement of TV and radio spots to promote IYCF in the context of COVID-19 which originally had aired only in Amharic, as reported in the [COVID-19 Sitrep No.17](#). The messages have now been translated in another five languages (Afaan Oromo, Afar, Nuer, Somali and Tigrigna) and are being broadcast on national and regional mass media ([Healthy Diet-COVID](#)). The messages of these spots emphasize the need to take all necessary precautions and continue breast feeding even if people are positive for COVID-19 and to take up or continue following a healthy diet to boost one's immunity system for preventing and/or fighting the disease.

In addition, in the reporting period, regional RCCE pillars in SNNP and Tigray regions, received feedback and complaints from 21,554 people, through their respective regional hotlines. Key amongst the complaints received were community members not practicing preventive behaviours, lack of testing, delay in the receipt of test results, lack of services and overcrowding in quarantine centres, people leaving isolation centres before recovery, and concerns on the cessation of the State of Emergency. The feedback points received are shared with zonal and *woreda* pillars for action on an ongoing basis. With respect to the ones related to RCCE specifically, response actions taken thus far include adjustments to messages to address the gaps reported, including through the use of more channels of communication, such as megaphones, volunteers etc., in the specific communities, to re-enforce COVID-19 prevention messages.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the reporting period, six water storage tanks were provided for Bule Hora University and Moyale Hospital treatment centers (two each), Shenen Gibe Hospital and Muketuri Hospital, all located in Oromia, to increase their water storage capacities. A total of 348 COVID-19 patients have directly benefitted from the water storage tanks provided to these

⁵ This figure includes WASH RCCE/hygiene promotion activities which in the reporting period amounted to a reach of 278,982 people in Oromia region (67,003 male, 64,119 female and 147,860 children), who were reached with key messages on COVID 19 and cholera prevention in West Hararge, West Guji, East Hararge, Bale, Borena, Jima and Guji Zones. The cumulative number of people reached through WASH-led RCCE activities is 3,649,368 out of the 44.6 million reported above.

facilities. Furthermore, the availability of water has meant that IPC measures are being correctly followed, including essential handwashing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. A total of 159 facilities have been supported through this activity since the onset of the pandemic response, including 24 operating in refugee settings.

On-going distribution of WASH Non-Food Items (NFIs) to prevent COVID-19 transmission, mainly consisting of buckets and soaps, has benefitted a total of 4,296 individuals in Oromia region. Among these individuals, 2,058 (494 men, 473 women and 1,091 children) are in West Wollega, Jimma, West Guji and Borena zones, while the remaining 2,238 (538 men, 514 women and 1,186 children) are in Bale zone, Agarfa, Ginir and Mae Welabu *woredas*, West Guji, Borena, and North Shoa zones. The cumulative number of people reached through the provision of WASH NFIs has now surpassed 2 million, including 56,625 refugees and 2,370 migrant returnees.

In the reporting period, three health care facilities, improved sanitation, including Bore Hospital center, Muketuri Hospital and Shenen Gibe Hospital, which were disinfected together with their surrounding environment, using UNICEF supplied sprayers, calcium hypochlorite (HTH), boots and heavy-duty gloves, benefitting 58 COVID-19 patients, and 60 health and support staff working in the facilities. This support brings the total number of health care facilities that have received materials to improve sanitation to 278, including 11 facilities in refugee settings and six serving migrant returnees.

Child Protection

In the reporting period, in Oromia, SNNP and the Somali regions, 6,612 people received key messages on COVID-19 and on how to mitigate risks to GBV. These 6,612 people include: 1,048 adults (454 female) in Oromia, 1,218 children and their caregivers (526 female) in SNNP, and 4,346 key influential community members (1,946 female) in Somali. The cumulative number of people reached with these kinds of COVID-19 and GBV risk pieces of information is now 64,872, inclusive of 10,148 refugees.

In addition, in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions, PPE that includes masks and hand sanitizers was given to 90 social and community service workers. Among these, in Amhara 18 social workers and community service workers deployed by the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) program in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) affected six *woredas* of central Gonder zone have been provided with the PPE. Similarly, in Benishangul-Gumuz, four social workers deployed by the Bureau of Women, Children, Youth (BoWCY) through UNICEF support, and working for IDP/returnee response programs, were provided with the said PPE. In Oromia, 11 (five male and six female) social workers/front line workers from *woreda* BoWCY in East and West Guji received the materials for self-care; while in Somali, 35 social workers deployed by the BoWCY were provided with these self-care materials. Similarly, in Tigray 22 social workers and community service workers at *woreda* and *kebele* levels in host community received the basic sanitary and protective materials. The cumulative number of social and community service workers who have been supported with PPE has reached 1,922, including 381 working in refugee settings nationwide.

Since March, 2,977 child protection cases have been reported and referred to services. Among these cases, 43 are of refugee children and 388 of returnee migrant children. In the reporting period specifically, in SNNP, Somali and Tigray, 275 cases (for 162 boys and 113 girls) including 43 returnee migrant children's cases (for 39 boys and four girls), were reported and referred for case management that has included, referral to health, psychosocial, and legal services.

In the reporting period, in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, SNNP and Tigray, a total of 157 children, including 90 refugee children (32 girl and 58 boys) and 59 returnee children (all girls) have been provided with alternative care and re-unification support services. Among these 157 children, 21 (18 refugees) received alternative care support, while the remaining 136 children (72 refugees and 59 returnees) were provided with re-unification support. The cumulative number of children who have been provided with re-unification and alternative care support since March is now 1,825, including 141 refugee children and 365 returnee migrant children. In addition, some 3,518 women and girls of reproductive age, including 775 refugees and 964 returnee migrants, have been provided with dignity kits since the onset of COVID-19. During this reporting period, in Amhara and Somali, 446 girls and women have received dignity kits. Among these, 229 were adolescent girls of reproductive age, of whom 45 are refugees.

Similarly, since March, 28,707 children, parents and primary caregivers, including 4,050 refugees and 136 returnee migrants, have been provided with community-based Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS). In this reporting period, in Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and SNNP regions, a total of 1,479 children and their primary caregivers have received MHPSS.

In Amhara region, a one-minute video about the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of children and key actions that community need to take to prevent and respond to GBV in particular during the pandemic has been prepared with UNICEF's technical and financial support and has been broadcasted through Amhara TV for nine days (September 10 – 18, 2020) by the head of the regional BoWCY, to raise the awareness of the general public around such issues. In

addition to mass media, the same messages are being shared with women in women's development groups, girls and returnee migrants by the BoWCY of the region, with the aim of enabling them to then share these key messages further, within their communities and with their peers. In Tigray, in three Building Self Resilient Program (BSRP) *woredas* (Tselemti, A/Tsimbela and T/Adiabo) and two UNICEF-supported Children on the Move (CoTM) *woredas* (RayaAzebo and S/T/Emba), a total of 456 vulnerable children (245 female) who are from economically poor families and living on the streets, have received protective materials (face masks and hand sanitizers) for their protection against COVID-19.

Education

In this reporting period, through distance learning initiatives 3.7 million⁶ children have been reached nationwide and an additional, 20,000 solar-powered radios with USBs containing learning and COVID awareness materials have been distributed.

In the Oromia region specifically, broadcasting of a condensed summer radio education program for grades 1-8 has continued using six radio education media centres, with 2.4 million children (1.09 million girls) estimated to be attending these radio lessons. In Afar, the REB is under discussion with the Disaster Prevention and Food Security Commission of the region and *woreda* authorities to vacate the 19 occupied schools by flood-affected communities. However, the Commission has faced shortages of tents (temporary shelters) for the communities to move out of the schools⁷. In another development, radio lesson script development of 500 lessons for grade 1-8 subjects of Amharic, Afar, English, Environmental Science, Basic Science, Biology, Social Science, Civics, and Social Studies has been finalized. Among these 500 lessons, the recording of 300 audio lessons has been completed.

In the Amhara region, the production of accelerated learning materials for grades 8-12 covering topics that were missed since the closure of schools in mid- March have been completed and will be ready for the re-opening of schools. In the Gambella region, UNICEF continued supporting distance learning education through radio broadcasts. Data on radio listenership was collected from nine *woredas*. Based on the reports from the seven of these *woredas*, a total of 52,101 children (25,191 girls) currently or have received lessons through radio broadcasts. UNICEF, together with Plan International, still in Gambella has reached 9,000 refugee children through distance education via radio. The current heavy rainfall and winds have however, damaged 31 schools in five *woredas*. This will have a direct impact on the 5,636 students (2,820 girls and 2,816 boys) expected to return to school in October.

In the Benishangul-Gumuz, schools have been damaged by on-going community conflict in four *woredas* (Guba, Wanbara, Bulen and Dibate) of Metekel zone. Currently, the REB is carrying out a detailed assessment to determine the level of the damage caused. In Tigray, the radio education programme for grades 1-4 which has aired since April has come to an end. A total of 700 solar radios are under distribution for IDP students in Alamata, Mekoni, Mekelle, Adigrat, Shire and Humera, whereas refugee students at the four camps (Mai Ayni, Adi Harush, Hititse and Shemelba) in this same region are getting 600 radios. In Somali region, a remote learning programme broadcast through TV is ongoing, whereby 25 sessions on five subjects for grades 7-8 have been transmitted through a rented channel named 'Macalinka TV'. Apart from this, 35 sessions of different subjects for grades 11-12 have also been broadcast. In addition, the distribution of solar-powered radios with USB drives has been made by UNICEF to the REB, which is finalizing the distribution to target *woredas*.

Nutrition

UNICEF is collaborating with its main partners including the FMOH/Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs), the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU), UN agencies and NGOs, to respond to the compounded humanitarian needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF is providing support to coordination efforts for nutrition, as well as partnerships arrangements with NGOs and capacity building on quality of care for nutrition to front-line health workers who are critical in sustaining the programmatic response in health facilities.

During the reporting period, 10,027 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months and 24-59 months, received IYCF counselling: 3,484 of these were supported in health facilities and 6,543 in community platforms. The majority of these primary caregivers who received the counselling were from Oromia (65 per cent), while the rest came from other regions. Apart from the above 10,027 primary caregivers, another 4,314 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months and 24-59 months who are refugees in Gambella, have received IYCF counselling through health facilities (3,339) and

⁶This report shows a reduction to around 3.7 million children (46 per cent girls - 1.7 million), who are estimated to be accessing distance education in the reporting period, because many of the regions have concluded the academic year's radio and TV broadcasts. However, in terms of the result reported in the Annex table A and the results tracker, the 5.2 million has been kept since the 3.7 million are subsumed in the latter, which is the highest achievement from the beginning of the COVID-19 response.

⁷It is to be remembered from the previous [COVID-19 No.18 Sitrep](#), flooding has seriously hit the Afar region, inhibiting over 20,000 (9,358 girls) students from going back to school. A total of 105 schools was affected by the flooding of which 27 were totally damaged, 16 were partially damaged and 56 schools are still surrounded by water. In addition, 19 of the schools are currently used as a safe haven by communities affected by the flooding.

community platforms (975). In total, 245,385 primary caregivers have received IYCF counselling, since the onset of the response to the pandemic, inclusive of 52,874 refugee primary caregivers.

In the reporting period, the nutrition response also included training of health care staff on appropriate nutrition (IYCF, SAM treatment, and nutrition for COVID-19 patients). A total of 585 staff were trained, in addition to 14 staff working with refugees in Benishangul-Gumuz. The majority of those trained were again from Oromia region (48 per cent), while the remaining were from Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and SNNP regions. The cumulative number of health care staff trained on appropriate nutrition in the context of COVID-19 has now reached 4,708, including 79 health care staff trained that work within refugee settings. In addition, in the reporting period, a total of 1,853 SAM children, including 91 refugee children were admitted for treatment for SAM. The cumulative number of SAM children admitted for treatment since March is 64,137 including 2,485 refugee children.

UNICEF continued to invest in assessments and studies that anticipate or illustrate the current or predicted food security and nutritional needs for children and requirements in the context of COVID-19. For instance, support to the monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in the country through the [Food Insecurity Integrated Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) method has been accomplished. The results revealed the presence of a continued need for humanitarian support as malnutrition levels are increasing as compared to the previous year. Among the key drivers for this spike in malnutrition is COVID-19, whose prevention measures, such as the lockdown and restricted movement has brought about negative impacts on food availability and access, increased food prices, reduced income and increased food expenditure⁸.

Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships (CAP)

UNICEF's advocacy and communication efforts in the reporting period focused on [school re-opening](#), [COVID-19 prevention](#) and on a story of a [healthcare worker](#) continuing to provide essential health services with the challenges of operating within a heightened environment of caution and COVID-19 preventative strategies.

On 18 September 2020, UNICEF handed over 380 oxygen concentrators to the FMoH in support of the Government's response to COVID-19. A [press release](#) was prepared and received extensive media coverage from state and private media and over social media⁹. A human interest story was published on [youth volunteers](#) supported by UNICEF through the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) working to sensitize the public on COVID-19 prevention measures.

Other highlights from UNICEF Ethiopia digital platforms include:

- [Ethiopia](#) featured in the global education video on what children are looking forward to about their school re-opening.
- [Global guide](#) for parents on school re-opening.
- [Donor appreciation](#) for their support during COVID-19.

In sum, in the reporting period 371,975 impressions were achieved, of which 105,315 were on Twitter and 266,660 on Facebook; whilst the number of engagements was 9,084 of which 3,258 were on Twitter and the remaining 6,546 were on Facebook.

Social Policy, Evaluation and Research (SPEAR)

In the reporting period, UNICEF has focused on facilitating the provision of essential items for those included in the Urban Productive Safety Net Programme (UPSNP) in Tigray and to Government institutions in Somali. In the Somali region, 1,809 hand sanitizers and 1,290 face masks were distributed amongst 1,019 staff in the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, and the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoFED/BoLSA) and eight *Woreda* Offices of the Finance and Economic Development (WoFEDs) offices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

⁸This food security analysis estimated that 8.5 million people have been highly food insecure in IPC Phase 3, in crisis or worse, between July and September 2020. Of these, about 7.1 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 and about 1.4 million people were included in IPC Phase 4 (in emergency). Furthermore, October- December 2020 forecasts revealed that Ethiopia's food security situation could improve slightly due to the seasonal harvests. However, wide-ranging humanitarian conditions could affect the food security situation resulting in 6.7 million people to be in crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Forecasts for January-June 2021 are indicating that an estimated that 11.1 million people will be in IPC Phase 3 or above (in crisis or worse).

⁹The press coverage includes the following articles: <https://www.ena.et/en/?p=17007>
<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unicef-hands-over-380-oxygen-concentrators-government-ethiopia>
<https://allafrica.com/stories/202009200117.html>
<https://www.press.et/english/?p=27694#>
<https://addisfortune.news/ethiopia-gets-oxygen-donation-for-covid-fight/>
<http://www.geeskaafrika.com/30286/ethiopia-380-oxygen-concentrators-come-at-right-time/>
<https://www.africa-newsroom.com/press/coronavirus-unicef-hands-over-380-oxygen-concentrators-to-the-government-of-ethiopia>

In Tigray, key sensitization messages on hygiene and sanitation promotion to prevent COVID-19 was given during the PSNP transfer pay days to a total of 2,398 (587 male and 1,811 female) UPSNP beneficiaries in Mekelle town. Similarly, the 2,398 household-heads and 1,927 (411 male and 1,516 female) of their dependents, including children also received hygiene kits such as liquid and solid soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers and masks. In total, 4,325 individuals benefited from this distribution.

Challenges

Security restrictions, in Oromia, particularly in the IDP sites located in Guji and the Wollegas, continue to restrict critical WASH interventions. Floods and a cholera outbreak in the Oromia region are also challenging the COVID-19 response as first responders, including critical healthcare staff are having to divert their attention to address these needs. Response efforts to address mass displacements from flooding is also challenging social distancing precautions and the consistent use of face masks. Similarly, the nutrition team have faced challenges in comprehensively meeting malnutrition treatment and IYCF counselling of affected persons due to resource and access constraints. Floods in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, and Somali regions have further threatened livelihoods and food security, as displaced persons still require support with access to medication, food and shelter.

With regards to school re-opening efforts, there are concerns about the capacity of schools to accommodate all children in line with the re-opening guidelines' requirements (which include a maximum size of 25 students per class, and the presence of handwashing facilities among others) due to huge resource gaps, partly from the prolonged under-investment in the education sector. To mitigate this challenge, UNICEF is supporting the MoE and the REBs, such as in SNNP and Somali regions, in resources mobilization and mapping of available resources to meet the re-opening guidelines requirements. In addition, heavy rainfall in Afar and Gambella regions followed by flooding on the one hand, and internal conflicts in Benishangul-Gumuz region on the other, could potentially delay the re-opening of schools as scheduled in October. The schools in these emergency-affected localities are less likely to re-open unless an emergency response is activated.

A shortage of COVID-19 reagent for COVID-19 tests has been reported, reducing the total number of tests that can be conducted. This is a challenge because with less testing, the number of cases that are detected is decreasing, which limits the number of people diagnosed in time for them to get the support they need to recover. PPE shortages persist, specifically N95 masks, gowns, and coveralls, which continue to lead to an increased exposure of health care staff to the spread of the virus with potential spillovers into their communities. UNICEF has offered further support on global procurement services to the Government, although financial gaps persist. In addition, following the end of the State of Emergency, COVID-19 precaution measures are no longer mandatory. This has meant that public transport providers for example are able to carry more individuals, mask wearing is no longer obligatory and public gatherings can once again take place. There are concerns that without these precautionary measures continuously instituted, the country may see a surge in COVID-19 cases over the coming months.

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster/Sector Response	
	2020 Target	Total Results	2020 Refugee Target	Total Refugee Results	2020 COVID-19 Target	Total Results*
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)						
Health						
# of people trained/oriented to sensitize the community on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.	5,000	23,074	1,000	670		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services ¹⁰ .	30,000,000	44,608,706 ¹¹	700,000	613,104		
C4D						
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions ¹² .	9,000,000	10,479,374	300,000	150,149		
Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships						
Number of impressions on social media (Twitter and Facebook) for COVID-19 stories / prevention messages ¹³ .	20,000,000	8,085,847 ¹⁴		-		
Number of social media engagements on COVID-19.	2,000,000	198,795 ¹⁵		-		
Child Protection						
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to child protection / GBV services.	30,000	64,872	500	10,148	300,000	
Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies						
Health						
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers provided with PPE.	10,000	15,119	1,500	119		
WASH						
Number of facilities (treatment, isolation quarantine sites) accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene through emergency water trucking, roto tanks to prevent COVID-19 transmission.	200	159	15	24	426 ¹⁶	
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.	2,500,000	2,227,244	100,000	56,625	2,694,005	
Number of people with access to basic sanitation services.	500,000	131,724	200,000	45,000	2,694,005	
Number of health care facilities with improved sanitation.	200	278	15	11	326	
Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management						
Health						
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control.	550	2,208	50	714		
Education						
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning ¹⁷ .	6,079,349	5,236,987 ¹⁸	29,542	653	6,200,000	
Number of households receiving a solar radio (with USB Capacity).	60,000	20,000	40,000		500,000	
Child Protection						
# of social workers supported with materials for self-care and messages on lifesaving / behaviour change messages on COVID-19.	750	1,922	500	381	1,000	
# of child protection cases reported and referred (by type of service).	12,000	2,977 ¹⁹	500	43	2,500	
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.	9,000	1,825	200	141	2,500	
Number of women and girls of reproductive age provided with dignity kits.	8,000	3,518 ²⁰	2,000	775	70,000	
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support.	40,000	28,707 ²¹	1,000	4,050	66,000	

¹⁰ This is one directional communication that includes the Ethio-telecom initiative that replaces ringtones with COVID-19 prevention messages and broadcast of COVID-19 prevention and control messages through local media channels (TVs and Radio).

¹¹ Please note that this total figure does not include mass-media level activities, which are not included in the results tracker nor in the Annex A table above, because of potential double-reporting against previous reported figures. However, such RCCE activities using mass-media are still ongoing. In addition, this figure includes WASH-led hygiene promotion activity results, which amounts to 3,649,368.

¹² These refer to two-dimensional communication activities.

Nutrition						
Number of staff trained or oriented on appropriate nutrition (IYCF, SAM treatment, nutrition for COVID-19 patients) in the context of COVID-19.	40,762	4,728	-	79	n/a	
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months and 24-59 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.	73,260	245,385 ²²	3,680	52,874	42,474	
Number of number children 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment.	73,260	64,137	3,680	2,485	36,630	
Support access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services						
Field Operation and Emergency						
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse.	20	-	-	-	n/a	
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors.	100	34	-	-	n/a	
Education						
Number of boys and girls provided with learning materials for back to school / school re-opening after COVID-19 (IDPs).	60,000	-	40,000	-	355,000	
Number of pre-primary and primary schools equipped with handwashing and school cleaning supplies.	439	-	65	-	n/a	
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols.	439	-	65	-	n/a	
Number of children accessing formal and non-formal education with handwashing and school cleaning supplies ²³ .	315,187	-	140,655	-	500,000	
SPESI						
Number of beneficiaries (affected by COVID-19) receiving cash transfers through existing safety nets ²⁴ .	90,000	-		-		

¹³ This is a new indicator and replaces the previous indicator that measured the number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services, with a focus on social media engagement. The previous indicator has been discontinued, noting the challenge of measuring unique individuals, by impressions.

¹⁴ Reach/impressions of 371,975 people: on Twitter 105,315 and on Facebook 266,660 people (for the reporting period).

¹⁵ Engagement of 9,084 people: on Twitter 3,258 and on Facebook 6,546 people (for the reporting period).

¹⁶ This target is a combination of two indicators: water trucking and rehabilitation and maintenance of water schemes and pipe-line expansion as per the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), June 2020.

¹⁷ The indicator targets primary and secondary school students aged 7-17 years.

¹⁸ This report shows a reduction to around 3.7 million children (46 per cent girls - 1.7 million), who are estimated to be accessing distance education in the reporting period, because many of the regions have concluded the academic year's radio and TV broadcasts. However, in terms of the result reported in the Annex table A and the results tracker, the 5.2 million has been kept since the 3.7 million are subsumed in the latter, which is the highest achievement from the beginning of the COVID-19 response.

¹⁹ In this reporting period, 232 children, as well as 43 refugee children had their child protection cases reported and referred for follow-up.

²⁰ In the reporting period, 362 adolescent girls and women received dignity kits. An additional 84 who received such services were refugees.

²¹ In the reporting period, those supported with MHPSS were 1,479 children (total 772 of whom 427 are boys and 345 girls) and their primary caregivers (total 583 of whom 303 are male and 280 female), including 99 refugee children (seven boys and 92 girls), and 25 returnee children (23 boys and two girls).

²² This includes 52,874 refugee children.

²³ All four indicators for Education will start being reported upon during back to learning campaign and after school re-opening.

²⁴ This activity is expected to start towards the beginning of October 2020.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Reprogrammed	\$	%
Nutrition	6,027,372	2,263,929	2,985,099	778,344	13%
Health	14,318,065	9,599,181	1,341,360	3,377,524	24%
WASH	11,737,062	8,850,638	741,914	2,144,510	18%
Child Protection	3,256,939	1,508,768	1,888,441	0	0%
Education	9,106,268	1,539,518	1,202,021	6,364,729	70%
C4D	1,898,765	1,993,053	0	0	0%
SPESI	2,678,832	3,031,887	797,928	0	0%
CAP	34,344	35,170	0	0	0%
Field Operations	28,620	0	0	28,620	100%
Total	49,086,267	28,822,145	8,956,763	11,307,359	23%