

UNICEF Georgia COVID-19 Situation Report

23 October 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, provided essential [hygiene supplies](#) for 336 kindergartens to support safe preschool reopening in the Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, and Adjara regions of Georgia. For more information, **please see a WEEKLY FOCUS on page 3.**
- UNICEF is partnering with the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre to establish a centralized communication platform for rural doctors to equip them with relevant COVID-19 prevention and treatment information and tools, as well as to strengthen the provision of essential health services in their catchment areas.
- Advocacy on increasing internet access for every child continues with relevant authorities, including a video from a visit of [UNICEF Representative to a family](#) in Omalo, Pankisi, who [shared their experiences](#) with lack of internet access and digital devices amid online learning.
- UNICEF, in partnership with MoIDPLHSA and NCDC, completed assessments of COVID-19 prevention and control measures in all maternities in Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Imereti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti.
- UNICEF reactivated the social media campaign on safety and prevention measures against COVID-19, disseminating [Facebook cards](#) for adults as well as [posters](#) for children, reaching over 12,000 people.
- UNICEF delivered personal protection supplies to the National Probation Agency, the Legal Aid Service, the State Care Agency and the Penitentiary Service, to create a safer environment for children, young people, social workers, caregivers, and probation staff.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

24,562

Confirmed cases

183

Confirmed deaths

1,327

Child (<18 years) cases

5,721

Quarantined

Abkhazia

Confirmed cases – 3,306

Confirmed deaths – 33

UNICEF funding gap

US\$ 1,841,399 (42%)

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.



UNICEF continues supporting the safe school and preschool reopening, as well as continues advocacy to increase internet accessibility for every child, supporting the continuity of online learning, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- To raise awareness about the need to increase internet access for every child, the [UNICEF Representative visited a family with eight children](#) in Omalo, Pankisi, who [shared their experiences](#) with lack of internet access and digital devices amid online learning. The UNICEF Representative raised this issue with the local authorities.
- [Recommendations for improving communication with teenagers](#) was widely shared on social media, reaching over 66,000 parents. [The third webinar for parents of teenagers](#) was organized, providing specific tips, and answers to their questions.
- In partnership with USAID, [seven regional TV channels broadcasted 14 special new programs, totaling 130 editions on COVID-19 updates](#)

[and protective measures](#). Minority language TV channels, Marneuli and Parvana, aired an additional 10 TV programs (totaling 100 editions) in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages, reaching 38,230 viewers through TV and 131,565 viewers via social media channels.

- Due to rising cases, UNICEF reactivated the social media campaign on safety and prevention measures against COVID-19, disseminating [Facebook cards](#) for adults as well as [posters](#) for children, reaching over 12,000 people.
- Youth communication on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures continued by media content prepared with their participation, including social media posts, a video, and articles on identifying [fake news](#), [quizzes](#), and [funny memes](#).
- UNICEF risk communication reached 200,185 people through Facebook on COVID-19 issues.
- A video focusing on psychological support to people in self-isolation reached 20,000 views on social media platforms and got broadcasted on local TV channels in Abkhazia, Georgia.

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

- UNICEF is partnering with the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre to establish a centralized communication platform for rural doctors and equip them with relevant COVID-19 prevention and treatment information and tools, as well as to strengthen the provision of essential health services in their catchment areas.
- UNICEF, in partnership with MoIDPLHSA and NCDC, completed assessments of COVID-19 prevention and control measures in all maternities in Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Imereti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. Reports with recommendations are serving as the basis for follow-up actions and training on IPC for maternity personnel.
- UNICEF's virtual antenatal care program reached all pregnant women in Georgia, out of which 31% participated in virtual shared consultations. The proposed model of information and knowledge transfer gained prominence and is serving as the best practice and innovation in this area. NCDC is requesting UNICEF to establish a platform, where pregnant women can book appointments, choose doctors, and participate in shared antenatal consultations.
- The Swiss government-supported WASH expert assessed the WASH conditions in 16 schools in Abkhazia, Georgia, with recommendations provided to stakeholders for further discussion and action.

Adolescents/youth

- During the reporting period, youth volunteers contributed 885 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, organizing 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, 40 stories on volunteer activities and disseminated through Facebook, reaching 14,832 people.
- A total of 115 online sessions were provided to adolescents and 21 one-time consultations for parents of adolescents in Tbilisi and Batumi by the psychosocial service center, Synergy. In addition, five supervision sessions and a coaching session for a group of 14-18-year-old adolescents was conducted on emotional management.
- UNICEF partner, Adjara Organization of Georgia Scouts Movement, held online sessions for school students of Adjara mountainous villages on prevention measures against COVID-19. Three schools engaged during the reporting period covered 110 students through the sessions.

Child Protection

- UNICEF delivered personal protection supplies to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation, the Legal Aid Service, the State Care Agency and the Penitentiary Service, 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 1,077 cases to date, of which 955 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 National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation, covering the prevention of professional stress, burnout, and mental health. ISC launched a rapid assessment for the involvement of the Office of Resource Officers in the identification and prevention of violence in schools.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia (CoG), provided online psychological support to 347 children and 259 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, covering all regions of Georgia. CoG initiated training of psychologists employed by the State Care Agency.
- 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 141,000 people.

Education

- UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, provided essential [hygiene supplies](#) for 336 kindergartens to support safe preschool reopening in the Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, and Adjara regions of Georgia.
- 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.



Click the Image above to watch the advocacy video - Internet Access for Every Child

WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN



Click the Image above to watch the video

On 21 October, UNICEF donated critical hygiene and personal protective materials to 336 kindergartens in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Adjara regions of Georgia to ensure children and caregivers in pre-school institutions continue education in a safer environment, mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia.

The supplies were procured with financial support of USAID within the framework of the project – Preventing and Responding to COVID-19 in Georgia.

The hygiene materials include disinfecting barriers, sanitizing liquids, hand sanitizers, antibacterial soap, surface sanitizing liquids, and digital thermometers.

UNICEF Deputy Representative: “The supplies delivered today, in partnership with USAID, will help children, teachers and caregivers in pre-school institutions stay safe while continuing the education process”.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Rustavi – Mr. Irakli Tabagua, USAID/Georgia’s Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Office Director – Mr. Adam Schmidt, and UNICEF Deputy Representative – Ms. Amy Clancy.

Funding

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

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 30 October 2020

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