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

- UNICEF, with support from USAID, is collaborating with the Government Administration and NCDC in the development of three graphic animation videos on COVID-19 protective measures for further dissemination via broadcast and outdoor media.
- A webinar led by a prominent child neurologist advised on techniques for improving communication with teenagers during the pandemic. The webinar was widely shared on social media, reaching over 35,000 parents. Three short videos, with additional recommendations for parents, were released online.
In partnership with USAID, nine regional TV channels continued broadcasting COVID-19 updates and information on protective measures. Minority language TV channels aired a total of 253 editions in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages, reaching over 31,000 viewers through TV and 123,500 viewers via social media channels.

UNICEF continued advocating for a safe preschool environment, highlighting the importance of safety measures during classes through multimedia stories produced in Borjomi kindergartens #1 and #3. A photo story and a video were released, (1) showing children and personnel complying with the new safety regulations, and (2) children being taught in a child-friendly way to use the PPEs and hygiene supplies delivered with the support of USAID.

The video of two girls from Tbilisi volunteering to help children and elders in need highlighted the importance of community response to COVID-19.

The partnership with the Georgian Rugby Federation continued to amplify risk communication messages, targeting young people, with an initiative calling for using protective measures – such as face masks – at all times to minimize the risks of contracting COVID-19.

Digital campaign for young people, focusing on COVID-19-related topics continued with fun memes, comics, quizzes, and a video, developed with the participation of young people and posted with high engagement from young social media users.

UNICEF risk communication reached 179,840 people through Facebook on COVID-19 issues.

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

Through the partnership with the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre, UNICEF performed preparatory work to establish a centralized communication platform for rural primary health care doctors and equip them with relevant COVID-19 prevention and treatment information and tools.

UNICEF initiated a partnership with Czech Caritas in Georgia to support the continuity of maternal and child health services amid COVID-19.

COVID-19 prevention and control measures were assessed in maternities in Shida Kartli and partially, in Samegrelo regions, with recommendations provided to clinic management and staff.

Following the success of the UNICEF-supported virtual shared antenatal consultations, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health will utilize this well-tested service modality for maternal and child health promotion.

### Adolescents/youth

During the reporting period, young volunteers contributed 997 hours to peer education, organizing online trainings, supporting homeless and elderly citizens, conducting an information campaign on volunteering issues, popularizing the idea of volunteering, sport activities, charitable activities, etc.

A total of 40 stories on volunteers’ activities were prepared and uploaded on an online volunteering platform as well as on Facebook, reaching 34,323 views.

32 adolescents attended the webinar on the role of youth volunteering delivered by an international expert.

UNICEF’s partner organization, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP-T), conducted an online webinar for adolescents and their parents, covering the following topic: Creativity - how to turn thoughts into the reality, reaching 1,300 views.

Psychosocial service center - Synergy, provided 116 consultations for adolescents and 22 one-time consultations for parents in Tbilisi and Batumi, as well as 4 group supervision sessions for adolescents aged 14-18 in Tbilisi.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Adjara, psychological support was initiated for students in Batumi and remote villages of the Adjara region using online training sessions delivered by GIP-T. The sessions focused on stress management, emotional health, problem-solving, etc. During the reporting week, GIP-T psychologists reached 339 students.

Kant’s Academy conducted a three-day training session for adolescents residing in Akhalkalaki municipality, covering the following topics: (1) Effective Communication and Leadership, joined by 100 adolescents; (2) Productivity, self-positioning, modern technologies, innovative approaches, entrepreneurship, and branding, joined by 187 adolescents; and (3) Stress Management, joined by 168 adolescents.
**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 1,132 cases to date, of which 1,025 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.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia (CoG), provided online psychological support to 365 children and 275 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, covering all regions of Georgia. CoG initiated training of psychologists employed by the regional centres of 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 145,000 people.
- UNICEF partner RHEA delivered sessions on art therapy and puppet workshops to young people with disabilities in Akhalkalaki Centre.

**Education**

- Elementary school teachers, school administrators, and educators from 100 schools in Georgia will be trained in distance teaching and learning as part of a partnership between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia, the Government of Estonia, and UNICEF 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.

**WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN**

With support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNICEF assessed the water and sanitary conditions in 10% of the schools in Abkhazia, Georgia. The assessment included schools in Gali, Gudauta, Tkuarchali, Gulrypshi, and Sukhumi districts.

The assessment revealed significant service gaps, which need to be addressed for creating an enabling environment for all children’s education and the need for preparedness interventions so that schools can safely open and continue their activities protected from COVID-19.

SDC-funded WASH consultant: “Investment in recommissioning access to running water and toilet facilities that promote strong hygiene habits are vital to delivering on the promise of education, even more so in these times of COVID-19”.

The assessment will be continued over the next weeks to produce a detailed picture of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in schools. The assessment will inform upcoming interventions.

Swiss Development Cooperation-funded WASH consultant performing an assessment of water and sanitary conditions at a school in Abkhazia, Georgia.
## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>514,000</td>
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<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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<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 6 November 2020

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