UNICEF Georgia COVID-19 Situation Report
6 November 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

• UNICEF and the Patriarchy of Georgia organized a workshop with priests from
  the Kakheti region to provide information and discuss the role of religious
  leaders in promoting child rights, prevention and response to violence against
  children, juvenile justice, positive parenting, as well as prevention of COVID-19.
  For more information, please see WEEKLY FOCUS on page 3.

• Through the partnership with the Emergency Situations Coordination and
  Urgent Assistance Centre, UNICEF continues 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.

• The assessment of COVID-19 prevention and control measures in regional
  maternity hospitals is complete and is now underway in Tbilisi-based maternity
  hospitals.

• UNICEF held a workshop with the Council of Elders and Women’s Council in
  Duisi, Pankisi Gorge, covering topics related to justice for children, violence
  against children and promotion of child rights, including in emergencies.

• Four parenting videos amid COVID-19 were released: (1) teenagers and the
  pandemic, (2) the influence of the pandemic on teenagers, (3) how to manage
  a teenager’s free time and (4) videos from a psychologist about parenting amid
  increased online communication during COVID-19, reaching more than 87,000
  views on Facebook.

• The GIP-T psychologists initiated training of 72 Batumi public school educators
  in psychosocial support including stress management, emotional health, etc.

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

• Four parenting videos amid COVID-19 were released: (1) teenagers
  and the pandemic, (2) the influence of the pandemic on teenagers, (3)
  how to manage a teenager’s free time and (4) videos from a psychologist
  about parenting amid increased online communication during COVID-19, reaching more than 87,000 views on Facebook, and
  was followed by a discussion on how to ensure children’s online safety.

• Protection from COVID-19, the updated government regulations,
  handling COVID-19 infected patients at home, and recommendations
  of local doctors and decision-makers were among the topics discussed
  during the TV program - Learn more about COVID-19, presented by
  nine regional TV channels across Georgia. USAID-supported TV

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

51,993
Confirmed cases

423
Confirmed deaths

1,327
Child (<18 years) cases

3,094
Quarantined

Abkhazia
Confirmed cases – 4,581
Confirmed deaths – 47

UNICEF funding gap
US$ 1,841,399 (42%)

UNICEF revisiting Pankisi Gorge - Delivering toys, entertainment, educational materials and resources to Duisi kindergarten.
programs on COVID-19 released 24 programs reaching over 617,000 viewers through TV and 8,700 people through Facebook. To date, 277 editions have aired in total.

- Digital campaign for young people continued with rigorous messaging on COVID-19 safety measures, regulations, and what to do in case of catching the virus. Engaging memes, animation, and an article on how COVID-19 changed relationships were developed with the participation of young people and posted with active engagement from young Facebook users.
- UNICEF amplified risk communication on hygiene measures amid the rapid increase of daily cases including posts on safety measures, regulations, and proper use of facemasks were released through social media platforms.
- UNICEF risk communication reached 87,465 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 continues 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.
- The assessment of COVID-19 prevention and control measures in regional maternities has been completed and is now underway in Tbilisi-based maternities.

**Adolescents/youth**

- During the reporting period, young volunteers contributed 855 hours to peer education, organizing online training, supporting homeless and elderly citizens, conducting an information campaign on volunteering issues, popularizing the idea of volunteering, sports activities, charitable activities, etc.
- A total of 101 stories on volunteers’ activities were prepared and uploaded on an online volunteering platform as well as on Facebook, reaching 24,248 views.
- 25 adolescents attended the webinar on Family Volunteering delivered by an international expert, reaching 5,767 views.
- UNICEF’s partner organization, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP-T), conducted an online webinar for adolescents and their parents, covering the following topic: Traumatic Loss and Grief, reaching 2,000 views.
- Psychosocial service center - Synergy, provided 108 consultations for adolescents and 14 one-time consultations for parents in Tbilisi and Batumi, as well as 4 group supervision sessions for adolescents aged 14-18 in Tbilisi.
- The GIP-T psychologists continue delivering online training sessions for public school students in Batumi and remote villages. The sessions focused on stress management, emotional health, problem-solving, etc. During the reporting week, GIP-T psychologists reached 980 students, and initiated training of Batumi public school educators, attended by 72 teachers.

**Child Protection**

- In partnership with the Parliament and the State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” continues to assist children and their families, supporting 1,186 cases to date, of which 1,066 already received assistance and were closed accordingly. There were 76 cases of violence against children.
- UNICEF partner, Initiatives for Social Change (ISC), provided training and supervision sessions for social workers, psychologists, and mediators from the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation, covering the prevention of professional stress, burnout, mental health, and remote communication.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia (CoG), provided online psychological support to 386 children and 293 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, covering all regions of Georgia. CoG also supported 2 small group homes where COVID-19 cases have been registered.
• A Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities continues to provide practical information, one-to-one counselling with specialists, and chats for parents and caregivers, engaging more than 147,000 people. UNICEF partner MAC Georgia finalized a concept document for remote social service provision, which is expected to be approved by the Ministry of IDPs from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs.

• UNICEF and the Patriarchy of Georgia organized a workshop with priests from the Kakheti region to provide information and discuss the role of religious leaders in promoting child rights, prevention and response to violence against children, juvenile justice, positive parenting, as well as prevention of COVID-19.

• UNICEF partner RHEA delivered sessions on sports, art therapy, and puppet workshops to young people with disabilities in Akhalkalaki Centre.

• UNICEF held a workshop with the Councils of Elders and Women in Duisi, Pankisi Gorge. The workshop covered topics related to children’s access to justice, violence against children and promotion of child rights, including in emergencies.

Social Policy

• UNICEF, with LEPL Social Services Agency (SSA), carried out a workshop to identify the needs for the continued delivery of safe services to the most vulnerable populations amid the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF is working to address some of the needs through the provision of PPEs and disinfecting supplies.

Education

• Elementary school teachers, school administrators, and educators from 100 schools in Georgia are being 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 provided toys, stationery, and other developmental resources to all 11 kindergartens of Pankisi Gorge. As a result, all children attending Pankisi preschools benefit from educational and play materials essential for their holistic development.

WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

On 3–4 November, UNICEF and the Patriarchy of Georgia organized a seminar for Orthodox Church representatives in Telavi, Kakheti. The main topic of the gathering was child rights and the role of the religious leaders in promoting child rights, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the topics discussed included: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Code on the Rights of the Child of Georgia, child protection mechanisms in Georgia, as well as how the partnership between the Patriarchy and UNICEF is contributing to improving knowledge on COVID-19 prevention measures. In addition, healthy lifestyle of young people was covered, including prevention of addiction to gambling and drug abuse.

“...the role of religious leaders is crucial in advancing and protecting children’s rights as they are close to their communities, children, and their families, so they can achieve positive changes in society by promoting child” – UNICEF Representative, Ghassan Khalil

Invited psychologists spoke about the protection of children in online spaces, prevention of gambling, promotion of a healthy lifestyle in youth, anger and anxiety management, etc. These sessions built the skills of religious leaders to address some of the emerging child protection issues in their communities, especially those caused by the fear, confusion, and stress related to the rapidly changing COVID-19 outbreak in Georgia.
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>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,001,399</td>
<td>1,589,300</td>
<td>1,412,099</td>
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<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>
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</tbody>
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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 20 November 2020

Contacts for further information:

Ghassan Khalil,  
Representative  
Mobile: +995 591 225 281  
Email: gkhalil@unicef.org

Amy Clancy,  
Deputy Representative  
Mobile: +995 551 548 170  
Email: aclancy@unicef.org

Maya Kurtsikidze,  
Communications Officer  
Mobile: +995 599 533 071  
Email: mkurtsikidze@unicef.org

Elene Karseladze,  
Reports Assistant  
Mobile: +995 555 900 966  
Email: ekarseladze@unicef.org