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East Asia and Pacific Region Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 15



Reporting Period: 14 November – 11 December 2020

Highlights

- One year after the first cases of a novel coronavirus were detected in Wuhan, China, the COVID-19 pandemic, including its social economic impacts, continues to affect the lives of children in the region and around the world, exacerbating vulnerabilities of families and communities to other hazards, such as typhoons and flooding.
- To date, 1,585,049 positive COVID-19 cases and 37,430 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (569,707 cases) and the Philippines (438,069 cases) being the most affected.
- Most countries have now reopened schools; however, following the detection of new COVID-19 cases, some countries have temporarily reclosed schools as a precautionary measure. UNICEF is supporting governments through safe back-to-school campaigns and in aiding governments' decision making through awareness raising on the benefits of school returns for children's learning, wellbeing and protection.
- Since January 2020, 206 million children were reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices through schools and early childhood development centres.
- To date, UNICEF and partners provided 58.9 million children, parents and primary caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as part of the COVID-19 response.

East Asia and Pacific Situation in Numbers



1,585,049

Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases



37,430

COVID-19 deaths



2.9 million

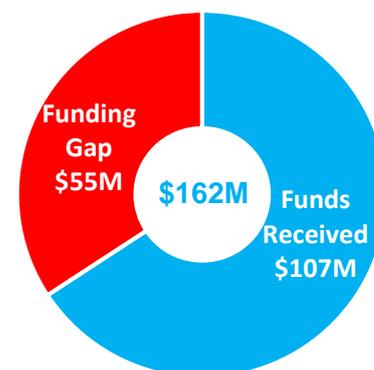
Children who were enrolled in the previous school year have not yet re-enrolled for the current school year



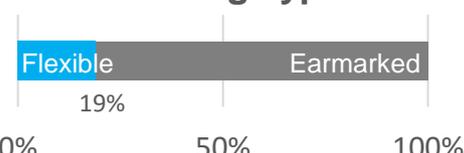
US\$162 million

Funding requirement for the regional response

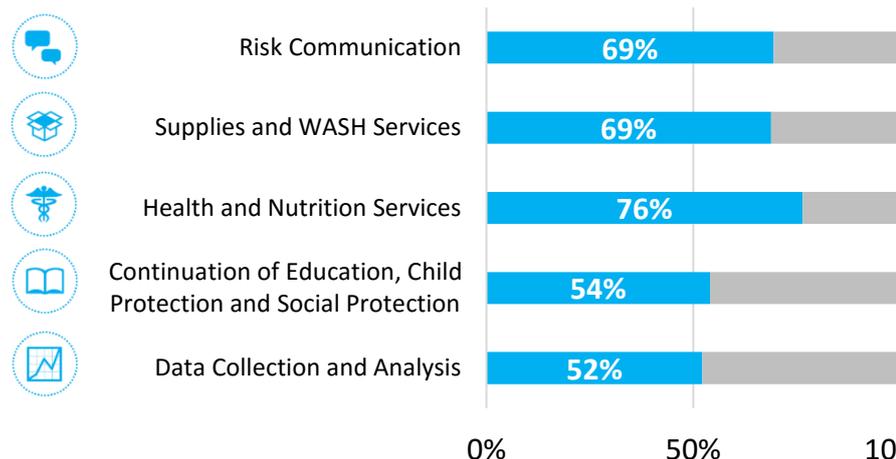
Regional Funding Status 2020 (US\$)



Funding Type



UNICEF's Funding Status



* UNICEF also received some multi-year contributions which go beyond the duration of the HAC. The total amount received including multi-year grants is **US\$ 131 million**.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

One year after the first cases of a novel coronavirus were detected in Wuhan, China, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of children in the region and around the world. Across East Asia and Pacific, early action by governments and partners has helped limit the spread of COVID-19 compared to other regions; however, new outbreaks of community transmission in some countries emphasize how fragile the progress in containing the pandemic is and has led the respective governments to resume public health measures in affected areas to limit transmission. Meanwhile, the social-economic impact of the pandemic is exacerbating the vulnerability of families to other hazards, such as typhoons and floods. To date, 1,585,049 positive COVID-19 cases and 37,430 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (569,707 cases) and the Philippines (438,069 cases) being the most affected. Restrictions on border crossings and flight operations remain in effect throughout the region.

Schools remain open in the majority of countries across the region. However, some countries are reclosing schools again as a precautionary measure after the detection of new cases of COVID-19. Schools and kindergartens in Mongolia remain closed, disrupting the education of around 700,000 children. Children in Mongolia are relying on distance learning delivered through TV lessons for the duration of school closures. In closing its schools, Mongolia is joining: Malaysia, which closed all schools last month; Myanmar, which closed all schools for a second time in August; the Philippines, where all schools remain fully closed for face-to-face classes; and Indonesia, where schools are allowed to reopen for face-to-face classes in low/moderate risk areas only. Advocacy and planning for the reopening of schools, once it is safe to do so, is ongoing in countries where schools and kindergartens are fully or partially closed. Additionally, UNICEF offices in Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam continue to support schools and communities responding to the impact on the education system from recent typhoons and flooding.

One of the biggest impacts of the pandemic is children's mental health and psycho-social well-being. Many children are facing increased protection risks, stress, trauma and anxiety; some children are also exposed to a higher risk of neglect, sexual exploitation and abuse. World Vision released a new study on the impact of COVID-19 on children - [Act Now: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19](#). The survey of children from 50 countries found that 81 per cent of children reported either seeing or experiencing violence during the pandemic. Building on this report, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and World Vision organized a regional "[Let Our Voices be Heard](#)" event, allowing children and young people to speak out against violence against children during COVID-19. The child-focused event included representation from the governments of Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand. Meanwhile, UNICEF Malaysia's "Families on the Edge" research project is investigating the impact of COVID-19 on families and children. In addition to highlighting the continuing economic impact of the pandemic and ensuing movement restrictions, the findings of the research indicate that mental health remains a major concern. Over 20 per cent of female heads of household indicated they are currently feeling depressed, with major concerns including fear that they will not have enough money to feed their children.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, governments in East Asia and Pacific were among the first in the world to implement a wide range of emergency social protection responses. In Mongolia and several Pacific Island Countries, governments put forward pre-emptive social protection measures (even before the first COVID-19 cases were registered in the respective countries) to provide economic stimulus and protection. By the end of the year, and despite all the efforts to control the spread of new infections, a few countries (such as Mongolia and Myanmar) have taken new emergency containment actions. By now, populations have suffered the consequences of the global slowdown for almost a year, and many of their coping mechanisms have already eroded. Many countries in the region have by now ceased or started scaling down their extraordinary social protection measures for the COVID-19 response. It remains a major regional challenge to design social protection systems that can respond to the current and future crisis. Countries must strengthen public finance for social protection, and to do so will require prioritized allocation of resources to protect children's health and meet their basic needs.

Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Response Strategy focuses both on addressing immediate needs, including enhancing preventive and preparedness measures to contain, mitigate and respond to the health and socio-economic impacts as well as on medium to longer term interventions through sectoral responses. The response strategy's first strategic priority is the public health response to reduce novel coronavirus transmission and mortality. This includes ensuring that children, their caregivers and the general population receive targeted and accurate lifesaving information on COVID-19 and how they can protect themselves; improving infection prevention and control (IPC) and providing critical medical and WASH supplies; and ensuring access to adequate WASH services. The second strategic priority focuses on addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, including supporting the continuity of health, nutrition, education, social protection and child protection including gender-based violence services.

In addition, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is enhancing knowledge management within the region and contributing lessons learned globally. While documentation of good practices is ongoing, sectoral and issue-based learning sessions are being organized together with country offices and external partners to exchange lessons, highlight issues and explore innovative ways of working in the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Furthermore, as governments prepare for COVID-19 vaccines, UNICEF has been supporting preparedness efforts for COVID-19 vaccine introduction through strategy development, demand generation, targeting and real-time implementation monitoring, supply chain support and capacity development of health workers.

Partnerships and Coordination

At the regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to reduce transmission and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 with national authorities, UN and partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control, NGOs, community-based organisations, and the private sector. To assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and women, UNICEF is coordinating with multiple agencies at the regional and national level. With the support of UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Country Offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19. UNICEF is actively contributing to the joint UN socio-economic assessment for COVID-19 as part of the joint UN Task Force.

Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF's risk communication and community engagement focuses on how to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly how to protect children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. Particular attention is given to reach urban populations, including slum dwellers, and other vulnerable populations such as migrants, people living in remote areas and the poor, where the risk of transmission is particularly high. In the region, **UNICEF continues providing public information** through social media and traditional media to **over 793 million people** since the beginning of the crisis, targeted audio-visual messages have also been produced and disseminated to reach children and people with disabilities.

- In **Cambodia**, during the reporting period, UNICEF designed and printed an additional 33 COVID-19 billboard posters, currently placed across the capital city Phnom Penh. Another 30,000 copies of three new COVID-19 posters were also distributed in Phnom Penh, aiming to strengthen COVID-19 awareness in the capital after the first instance of COVID-19 community transmission was detected in the country on 28 November.
- In **Lao PDR**, all 10 episodes of the new early childhood development TV show "My House" have been disseminated through UNICEF's Facebook page. The show promotes how parents can support learning at home for young children with integrated messages on COVID-19 prevention. The last four episodes reached 167,019 people. Discussions of a new season for the series are ongoing.
- In **Myanmar**, over 1.5 million people (including an estimated one million children) in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and non-government-controlled areas received image-only materials and flyers targeted at hard-to-reach, low-literacy communities. These materials were accompanied with an 'engagement exercise sheet' to ensure that they were shared with people with disabilities, women's groups, youth groups, and other community members in need. These were designed consultatively with U-Reporters (UNICEF's youth network) and UNICEF field staff to ensure that the concepts and illustrations were understandable and appealing across a broad demographic and ethnic range.
- In the **Pacific**, UNICEF supported the printing and dissemination of two storybooks with COVID-19 awareness messaging for children, with planned distribution to 14,800 children in the Federated States of Micronesia, 8,000 children in Marshall Islands and 4,500 children in Palau.
- In **Thailand**, five short videos are being developed with the Department of Disease Control (DDC), on preventive measures in schools and on decision-making regarding possible school closures due to COVID-19. It is hoped these measures will help ensure that students can continue their education without unnecessary disruption in the event of a confirmed case in their community. The videos also target parents and children with messaging on how to keep themselves safe and healthy. The final version is planned for release in January 2021 through health and education authorities' networks, as well as through UNICEF and DDC social media.

Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services

UNICEF supports frontline health workers and service providers to have capacity to manage IPC and to have access to IPC equipment in critical facilities. It also looks at children and their families having access to safe and affordable water and WASH, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. While **UNICEF provided personal protective equipment (PPE) for an additional 451 health workers** during the reporting period across the region, **reaching 414,974 health workers** since the beginning of the crisis, **an additional 1.4 million people were reached with WASH supplies and services for a total of over 14.8 million people** being reached since January 2020.

PPE and Health Supplies

- In **Mongolia**, PPE and hygiene supplies were provided to 177 frontline staff members at the Bayanzurkh district health centre.
- In **Timor-Leste**, during the reporting period an additional four community health centres in two municipalities were provided with IPC supply packages.

WASH Supplies and Services

- In **Fiji**, distribution of soap is continuing in 312 schools in the Western Divisions that will benefit 80,709 students, as well as six health care facilities in the Lau and Kadavu that will benefit 4,222 people.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, 500 families (estimated 2,500 people) were provided with hygiene kits containing personal hygiene material and messages on COVID-19 prevention, mitigating the spread of virus and violence prevention.

- In **Malaysia**, due to the prolonged conditional movement control order, UNICEF has expanded its support to an additional 10 alternative learning schools in Sabah, covering 6,500 children and their families with essential hygiene supplies including reusable sanitary pads. As of 8 December, 73,500 people (children and their families) from undocumented communities in Sabah, detainees in the Immigration Detention Centre, refugee schools in Klang valley, and low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur have received essential hygiene kits and health education sessions. To date, 277,000 face masks, 43,334 soaps, 2,200 hand sanitizers (500ml), 268 contactless thermometers, and 500 clothes have been distributed across the country; a total of 60 handwashing stations were also installed at alternative learning centres in Sabah.
- In **DPRK**, COVID-19 related supplies are subject to the same anti-epidemic measures, including a 10-day mandatory quarantine. In collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Management, UNICEF delivered local construction materials such as cement and iron bars to eight water supply project sites. In addition to this, installation of five gravity-fed water supply projects from Jongju, Rakwon and Tosan counties have been completed which have provided basic water supply to 8,843 households (32,209 people), 12 schools and seven healthcare facilities.
- In **Timor-Leste**, to date UNICEF has provided 189 public handwashing tanks, 70 school hand washing tanks, 13,532 portable handwashing devices, 140 jerry cans, 250 liquid soap bottles, improvements of six public toilets, installation of eight temporary toilets, IPC packages for 15 community health centres, and improvement of WASH facilities in 10 critical border facilities. These activities have benefitted approximately 674,000 people, including 578,320 people under 18 years old (boys 295,458 and girls 282,862) and 95,680 people are over 18 years old (males 48,797 and females 46,883) in schools, pre-schools, health faculties, points of entry, quarantine and isolation centres.
- In **Viet Nam**, 19,396 bars of soap and 18,705 bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed to the Da Nang Department of Education and Training. These supplies reached to the total 192,252 students, teachers and school staff in 1,306 schools (99,084 female and 93,168 male), including 1,036 persons with disabilities and 477 ethnic minority people. Da Nang Department of Health received 10,444 soaps and 3,045 hand sanitizing liquid bottles. This supply has been distributed to 22 hospitals, seven health care centres at district level and 56 health care stations at ward/communal level. In addition, at social protection centres, 1,010 soaps, 500 bottles of hand sanitizer and 25 bottles for floor sanitizing were distributed, which benefitted 904 people, including 658 children and 246 officers.

Supplies and Logistics Challenges

Where PPE supplies are available on local markets, quality certification according to international standards is sometimes challenging. Regional export restrictions of PPE and WASH supplies as well as border closures and regular flight operation have made it significantly more difficult to source such supplies regionally and ensure their transportation into affected countries. Furthermore, due to the closure of regular flight operations and border closure the options of using chartered flight has heavily increased the operation cost.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF, in close coordination with partners and health authorities, is supporting countries' health systems in the region to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks. UNICEF has strengthened health system capacities by supporting the **training of an additional 73,763 health workers** during the reporting period, **having so far reached over 654,426 health workers** in total on the detection, management and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases while at the same time supporting the continued provision of adequate health care, including nutritional services, for children, pregnant women and vulnerable communities. So far, **over 28 million people have been reached with nutrition messages and over 5.6 million children have been provided with access to essential nutrition services. The focus in the region is now on re-establishing the delivery of routine nutrition services.**

- In **Mongolia**, with UNICEF support, primary health workers provided counselling service on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) to 24,143 children, including 12,077 girls and 12,066 boys in five target provinces and six districts of Ulaanbaatar in November 2020.
- In **Myanmar**, 1,995 children 6-59 months (986 girls and 1,009 boys) were screened in November for acute malnutrition and 41 children (26 girls and 15 boys) with severe acute malnutrition were treated. Moreover, 330 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 3,147 children (1,566 girls) were provided with preventive nutrition services (micronutrient supplementation and IYCF counselling). UNICEF as the sector lead, coordinated with Ministry of Health and Sport and health and nutrition partners in Pauk Taw township for COVID-19 and Measles outbreak response to children in Pauk Taw IDP camps.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues supporting data management and timely submission of COVID-19 test results to the Department of Health. UNICEF is supporting nine molecular labs across the country, operated by partner Philippine Red Cross, achieving 100% reporting of test results to the Department of Health within 24 hours of release.

Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and Social Protection Services

UNICEF Country Offices are including protection and nutrition considerations in the back to school campaigns, including WASH supplies and campaigns. In countries that are opting for distance learning or have had to reclose schools due to increased COVID-19 transmission, UNICEF is supporting continuity of learning efforts as well as aiding governments' decision making through awareness raising on the benefits of school returns for children's learning, wellbeing and protection.

While several significant regional child protection issues have emerged and protection services has been disrupted over the past few months, UNICEF continues to work with governments and partners to ensure continuity of critical child protection services including case management. Furthermore, UNICEF is working with partners to ensure that children at risk of family separation and children and women at increased risk of violence, sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, due to COVID-19, are protected through social and protection services in humanitarian and development contexts. Increasing attention is also given to the heightened risk children and women face of experiencing violence in the home during the COVID-19 epidemic. To re-enforce the rights of children and women, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office supported the Association of South East Nation (ASEAN) to issue a statement on mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD). The statement highlights not only the need to reach vulnerable groups of children, but also the role of social protection and social workers. This is particularly timely given the new World Bank report projecting regional growth to slow sharply in 2020, to 0.5 per cent, the lowest rate since 1967.

By supporting social protection responses by governments in the region, UNICEF helps to ensure that vulnerable children and their families impacted by COVID-19 have financial access to goods and services essential to meet their basic needs. To date, UNICEF's support to social protection services has resulted in **17.8 million households** having been reached with cash assistance.

Education

- In **China**, UNICEF supported the Safe School Campaign, which included both a digital campaign and the delivery of posters targeting students, school staff and caregivers with messaging on hygiene and risk reduction practices in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools nationwide. Following a review of the in-school part of the campaign by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, it is estimated that the messages on the posters reached approximately 154 million students nationwide in 2020.
- In **Lao PDR**, additional learning materials for children attending UNICEF-supported pre-primary classes and community-based early childhood education centres were handed over to the Ministry of Education and Sport. This will benefit 6,191 children (3,050 girls and 3,141 boys) in 12 districts across five provinces. Printing of textbooks and learning materials for pre-school, primary and secondary students is nearly complete and will benefit over 750,000 students, particularly in remote rural areas.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF strengthened teacher capacity through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)/Teacher Digital Learning Community via the Ministry of Education (MOE) Google Classroom [platform](#) with MOE and ARUS to maintain continuity of student learning on the MOE digital learning platform. Content has been accessed by 3,162 teachers from 1,885 schools and includes a resource bank of over 1,000 resources curated from teachers who have accessed the MOOC.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, more than 100,000 (43%) of Grade 8, 10 and 12 students in target provinces (Morobe Urban, Madang Urban, Sundaun, Western and NCD) and other high-risk provinces were provided with face masks as they sat their national examination in mid-October 2020. A total of 486,000 PPE items (masks) and 2,051 infrared thermometers were provided to target schools through funding support provided by the Global Partnership for Education.

Child Protection

- In **Lao PDR**, during the reporting period, with UNICEF's support, 16 survivors of trafficking and violence (all female, 13 are under 18 years old) received comprehensive supports through the Lao Women's Union protection shelter. Services provided include identification, referral, case management, legal aid, social assistance, counselling and community reintegration.
- In **Myanmar**, in northern Rakhine, 1,411 children and adolescents (575 girls) benefitted from psychosocial support via Child Friendly Spaces in IDPs sites and host communities. Children received facemasks, soap and hand sanitizer. In addition, five parenting sessions were conducted for 66 parents (28 females). Parents received key information on childcare, how to protect their children from violence and abuse, referral pathways and tips on how to prevent COVID-19.
- In **China**, following the training of 90 Child Friendly Space workers across nine counties in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Jiangxi Province, sports for development activities have started in at least five counties with at least 150 children participating. In the first round of implementation, 20-80 children will attend sports for development activities in each of the nine counties, as well as other life skills related activities.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues to support the nationwide helpline of the Philippine Red Cross. As of 2 December, 25,505 helpline callers were provided with critical information on mental health and case management concerns among others (13,746 male and 11,759 female callers).
- On 30 November, UNICEF **East Asia and Pacific Regional Office**, along with UNFPA and UN Women, hosted a regional webinar titled *Collaboration is Essential: Together we can end violence against children and violence against women in East Asia and the Pacific*. The webinar discussed a growing recognition of the shadow pandemic of violence against women and children in the home during containment measures, the co-occurrence of these harms and the need to promote a more cohesive approach for prevention and response. A joint statement of the Regional Directors of UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women - [Together we can end violence against children and violence against women in East Asia and the Pacific](#), was issued, along with the multi country reports ([Cambodia](#), [PNG](#), [Philippines](#), and [Viet Nam](#)).

Social Protection

- In **Cambodia**, as of 7 December, a total of 661,330 households were covered by the National Cash Transfer Programme for Poor and Vulnerable Households Affected by COVID-19. Preparations are under way for the December round of payments, which will conclude the government's commitment to the programme in 2020. The government, with UNICEF support, is considering options for the extension of the programme in 2021. Several options have been developed with the aim of ensuring maximum protection for the most vulnerable households. The 2021 scheme is considered a transition scheme leading towards more routine cash transfer programmes.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to support the government in developing guidelines for increasing coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers for a poverty-focused child grant programme during COVID-19. Specifically, UNICEF advocates the expansion of vulnerability criteria by including girls, female-headed households, elderly women, and pregnant women. From June 2020, the Ministry of Villages updated its monthly report on cash disbursement beneficiaries based on gender of the family head.

Cross-cutting areas: Adolescent and Youth engagement, Disability, Gender

- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF supported the wellbeing and empowerment of caregivers and families of children with disabilities in responding to the challenges of the pandemic through its webinar series 'Caring for the Caregivers.' The fifth and sixth (last) sessions were conducted on 19 November and 3 December respectively. The [webinar](#) reached a total of 74,610 viewers and had a positive reception and engagement from the target audience.
- In **Indonesia**, a [series of mental health and psychosocial messages](#), co-created with 16 adolescents (11 girls; 5 boys) including two living with disabilities were launched. The messages on understanding on mental health, tips to maintain mental health, and referral information are posted on social media. The messages are published by UNICEF jointly with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection and the Ministry of Health. In three provinces, young people continue to engage and lead dissemination and discussion on MHPSS. Meanwhile, the [digital campaign](#) #COVID19Diaries has provided a platform for young people to share their experience during COVID-19 and mobilize others to take action through stories, photos, videos, drawings, etc. So far, the campaign has reached 186 million people and engaged 5.6 million on social media through 1,490 submissions shared by young people. Since March, 52,573 respondents have participated in U-Report polls nationwide on several aspects of the impact of COVID-19. As part of a mental health initiative with the Association of Medical Students to provide psychosocial support and practical knowledge on mental well-being during COVID-19, a series of [live-streamed sessions](#) have been held for and with young people so far with over 6,000 views.
- UNICEF **East Asia and Pacific Regional Office** documented promising practices of disability inclusion in UNICEF's response to COVID-19 in the region. To share these lessons learned, UNICEF organized a webinar on *Disability Inclusive Response during COVID-19 and Beyond in East Asia and the Pacific* on 3 December in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The webinar provided an opportunity to review the efforts made to ensure disability inclusion during the pandemic and discuss how these promising practices can be sustained post-COVID. Guest speakers from Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Myanmar shared their country experiences and reflections.

Data Collection, Analysis and Research

UNICEF generates data analyses and evidence on consequences and impacts of the pandemic to social services to advocate and inform social protection services and the wider response to the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF is working with partners on the secondary impact assessment.

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF and partners supported the Ministry of Health and the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group to conduct a [COVID-19 acceptance survey](#), reaching over 115,000 people across all 34 provinces in the country. The results are being used to develop tailored communication strategies to improve uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine once available.
- In the **Pacific**, a socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands has been completed. Draft reports have been circulated to governments and stakeholders for review.
- In the **Philippines**, a joint UNDP-UNICEF socioeconomic impact assessment final report is undergoing review by UNDP-UNICEF and members of the Research Reference Group. A key major finding is that welfare status and poverty are far worse than earlier projected by previous studies. Public dissemination is scheduled on 18 December.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF issued the preliminary results of an online survey on COVID-19 for adolescents and youth, carried out with the Commission on the Rights of the Child. 407 respondents ages 10 to 24 years old filled in the survey, including 55% of girls/women. Respondents felt the pandemic had changed their life and pointed to fear and sadness as the most common emotions during the crisis. Students overwhelmingly missed going to school. Many felt that they had influenced their family's use of the government's \$200 COVID-19 cash transfer, with food being the top reported use for the money. Close to half of respondents helped their community during the crisis, including disseminating information and providing food. Finally, more than 40% of respondents want decision-makers to focus more on children and youth – and in particular, on education.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF has continued to advocate for expanding social protection to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, particularly among the most vulnerable. The results from the research on the impact of COVID-19 on families with young children and children with disabilities, conducted in partnership with Thailand Development Research Institute, were presented to the Director-General of the Department of Children and Youth. The findings were also included in the Universal Child Support Grant proposal which was fully approved by National Child and Youth Committee and is expected to be submitted to cabinet in the coming weeks.

- In **Viet Nam**, three assessments and analysis including: i) Rapid assessment on socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and their families; ii) Social impact analysis of the COVID-19 by all UN agencies led by UNICEF; and iii) Rapid assessment on social assistance were completed and disseminated to policy makers with the aim to make strategic socio-economic planning in Viet Nam for 2021-30 more inclusive, child friendly and shock-responsive. Furthermore, in Da Nang, a situation analysis on the initial impact of COVID-19 in the urban context was completed. The assessment provides recommendations aimed towards long-term solutions within the forthcoming City Plan for Children, involving children, adolescents and policy makers as well as other stakeholders. Findings and recommendations from these assessments and studies were further disseminated during World Children's Day events across the country on 20 November. Finally, a synthesis of all UNICEF-supported assessments related to COVID-19 impacts on children is being undertaken to support UNICEF's strategic advocacy.

Funding

UNICEF revised its Global HAC for the COVID-19 response in July 2020 and is now seeking US\$1.9 billion globally. As part of that appeal, **the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan is US\$ 162 million**. So far, **a total of US\$ 107 million** has been received for the region from different donors, including the Governments of Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, the European Commission, China, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, CERF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Solidarity Fund, Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C-19 RM), several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, Denmark, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, UK and USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$ 55 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. UNICEF acknowledges the generous contribution of donors including private sectors supporting this joint effort to respond and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the East Asia and Pacific region. Please refer to Annex B for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

Internal and External Media

- UN News, [Human rights must be 'front and centre' of COVID-19 response: Secretary-General](#), 9 Dec 2020
- DW, [UNICEF calls for schools to remain open despite COVID](#), 8 Dec 2020
- The Irrawaddy, [Myanmar's COVID-19 Cases Exceed 100,000](#), 8 Dec 2020
- Forbes, [Record Flooding In Vietnam Leaves 2.5 Million Children At Risk](#), 8 Dec 2020
- The Diplomat, [Mongolia Grapples With Its First Real COVID Wave](#), 8 Dec 2020
- IDN-InDepthNews, [Vanuatu's Development Success Overshadowed by COVID-19](#), 8 Dec 2020
- UCA News, [Pandemic fuels child labor increase in the Philippines](#), 8 Dec 2020
- Business Recorder, [COVID-19 set to push over 32mn of the world's poorest people into extreme poverty: UN](#), 7 Dec 2020
- VOA, [Malaysia's COVID Woes Spotlight 'Terrible' Migrant Worker Housing](#), 6 Dec 2020
- Tempo.co, [School Reopening; Jokowi Asks to Prepare Kids Face Masks](#), 3 Dec 2020
- UNICEF, [UNICEF issues record US\\$6.4 billion emergency funding appeal to reach more than 190 million children impacted by humanitarian crises and the COVID-19 pandemic](#), 3 Dec 2020
- The ASEAN Post, [Cyberbullying On The Rise](#), 2 Dec 2020
- Reuters, [COVID-19 drives 40% spike in number of people needing humanitarian aid, U.N. says](#), 1 Dec 2020
- Independent, [Cambodia shuts schools after rare outbreak](#), 30 Nov 2020
- Antaranews, [Face-to-face learning resumption after meeting strict requirements](#), 30 Nov 2020
- UNICEF, [Listen to children's experiences of COVID-19 - UNICEF: World Children's Day](#), 20 Nov 2020

Next Situation Report: TBD

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2020 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
Risk Communication and Community Engagement			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services*	630,999,412	793,922,733	-
Number of children reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices (specific to schools and early childhood development centres (ECD) centres)	300,651,407	206,237,268	▲ 97,047,199
Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services			
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	283,493	414,974	▲ 451
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	12,196,701	14,818,468	▲ 1,456,081
Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services			
Number of health facilities staff and community health workers trained in detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	534,808	654,426	▲ 73,763
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	553,198	524,967	▲ 54,976
Number of women and children that have continued access to obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services	8,117,800	5,251,534	-
Number of people reached with nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19	17,886,412	28,988,667	▲ 3,681,683
Number children that have access to essential nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic period	4,813,046	5,626,262	▲ 498,546
Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	80,720,967	72,560,864	▲ 1,717,739
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	283,133	518,904	▲ 278
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with mental health and psychosocial support**	56,394,644	58,963,069	▲ 82,981
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	22,548,093	17,851,714	-

*As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored the possibility of double counting.

** The activity includes all direct and indirect MHPSS interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	2020 Requirements	2020 Funds Received	2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
			\$	%	
Risk Communication	\$ 22,916,656	\$ 15,921,577	\$ 6,995,079	31%	\$ -
Supplies and WASH Services	\$ 55,316,922	\$ 38,081,992	\$ 17,234,930	31%	\$ 3,729,867
Health and Nutrition Services	\$ 34,014,727	\$ 25,996,425	\$ 8,018,302	24%	\$ -
Continuation of Education, Child Protection and Social Protection	\$ 40,090,945	\$ 21,672,600	\$ 18,418,345	46%	\$ 19,974,531
Data Collection and Analysis	\$ 7,055,011	\$ 3,684,220	\$ 3,370,791	48%	\$ -
Regional Coordination and Support	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,643,886	\$ 956,114	37%	\$ 350,000
Total	\$ 161,994,261	\$ 107,000,700	\$ 54,993,561	34%	\$ 24,054,398

Country	2020 Requirements	2020 Funding Available		2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
		Newly Received	Reprogrammed	\$	%	
Cambodia	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 5,074,108	\$ 21,500	\$ 1,904,392	27%	\$ 216,000
China	\$ 7,176,600	\$ 3,701,493	\$ -	\$ 3,475,107	48%	\$ -
DPRK	\$ 4,658,362	\$ 2,138,738	\$ -	\$ 2,519,624	54%	\$ -
Indonesia	\$ 26,377,728	\$ 17,313,215	\$ -	\$ 9,064,513	34%	\$ 216,000
Lao DPR	\$ 10,461,610	\$ 7,791,874	\$ -	\$ 2,669,736	26%	\$ 3,533,531
Malaysia	\$ 2,484,000	\$ 1,040,268	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,293,732	52%	\$ 80,000
Mongolia	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,745,619	\$ 100,000	\$ 5,154,381	64%	\$ 180,000
Myanmar	\$ 24,482,374	\$ 13,279,991	\$ 177,000	\$ 11,025,383	45%	\$ 5,928,080
Pacific	\$ 19,749,680	\$ 18,859,362	\$ 235,000	\$ 655,318	3%	\$ 4,250,000
Papua New Guinea	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 11,334,078	\$ 719,000	\$ -53,078	0%	\$ 7,371,787
Philippines	\$ 18,215,685	\$ 5,199,889	\$ 3,338,415	\$ 9,677,381	53%	\$ 324,000
Timor-Leste	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 6,731,859	\$ 546,925	\$ 921,216	11%	\$ 1,605,000
Thailand	\$ 3,476,780	\$ 1,869,425	\$ -	\$ 1,607,355	46%	\$ -
Viet Nam	\$ 7,111,442	\$ 2,989,055	\$ -	\$ 4,122,387	58%	\$ -
Regional Office	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,643,886	\$ -	\$ 956,114	37%	\$ 350,000
Total	\$ 161,994,261	\$ 101,712,860	\$ 5,287,840	\$ 54,993,561	34%	\$ 24,054,398

* Funds available for 2020 and 2021 are part of multi-year contributions.