Highlights

- As of 30 September, 2.1 million total cases, 267,037 of which are active, and 55,610 deaths in total were reported in the MENA region.

- Across the region, collection and use of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) evidence and community feedback are being stepped up. To date, nearly 276 million people have been reached, more than 41 million engaged, and nearly 870,000 have provided feedback.

- UNICEF reached 170,315 healthcare workers with personal protective equipment (PPEs), and 12,025 people have been trained in infection prevention control (IPC). In addition, more than 15 million people received water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support supplies.

- UNICEF supported continuity of health & nutrition services for 6,534,789 women/children and trained 8,448 health workers in managing COVID-19 cases. Moreover, 230,504 children received severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment while 2,256,159 caregivers received messages on breastfeeding. While there has been recovery of routine immunization services in some countries, data are still limited. UNICEF has been supporting vaccine-derived polio and measles outbreaks response beyond COVID-19 in Yemen and Sudan.

- The start of the new school year took a bumpy road: Two thirds of schools that opened in August, closed again partially or fully. In the UAE however, education continued fully online, while the school year is in full swing in most of the Gulf countries and Tunisia. To date, UNICEF reached nearly 5 million children as part of continuous education and 13,126 schools have received support with safe school protocols.

- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) reached 349,167 children, parents and primary caregivers while 13,101 individuals were served with alternative care arrangements. An additional 1.2 million children and adults got access to protection services, including via against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) channels.

- To date, more than 12 million households have benefited from new or additional social assistance measures, as part of UNICEF’s support to governments, while 65,386 households have received a humanitarian cash grant.

Summary of Programme Response Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Reached (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCCE: People reached through messaging</td>
<td>107%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH supplies</td>
<td>138%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to essential health services</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/home based learning</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial support</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional social assistance measure</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Situation Overview

As of 30 September, the MENA region has registered more than 2.1 million total cases, 267,037 of which are active, including 120,887 new ones reported in last week of the month, and 55,610 total deaths since the start of the epidemic.

The situation among countries continues to vary greatly – a group of countries recorded a decline in new cases while others experienced a sharp increase due to low individual adherence to protective measures (mask wearing and social distancing) during the summer. The number of weekly deaths remained stable after a sharp increase in the first two weeks of the month.

Iraq (25 per cent of MENA new cases), Iran (21 per cent) and Morocco (13 per cent) continue to be the most affected countries. Nearly half of the weekly deaths in the region were reported in Iran (48 per cent) while the country is experiencing a third wave of new cases. With more than 24,000 new cases a week, the country recorded its highest weekly level. Tehran, Qom and East Azerbaijan status are critical and in a worse situation compared to the first and second waves.

Iraq recorded last week its lowest fatality rate (435 deaths) of the past three months; however, the situation remains worrisome, as new infections remained at about 30,000 a week for the fourth consecutive week.

Several countries, including Morocco, Tunisia, the State of Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan have doubled their weekly numbers of new infections over the last two weeks and have faced uncontrolled virus transmission in the community. Morocco recorded more than 200 deaths a week in the last five weeks.

Other countries, including Syria, Egypt, Algeria and Yemen recorded a continuous decline of new cases. In a period of one month, the transmission pattern for COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia has shifted from community transmission to clusters of cases and sporadic cases– the first country in the region to do so.

Djibouti, Qatar and Sudan have reported a limited number of new cases and deaths over the past month.

Weekly active cases (total – deaths – recovered) in the MENA region – 9 March to 27 September

![Weekly active cases chart](chart.png)

Socio-Economic Impact and Humanitarian Needs

The latest ILO Monitor on labour market developments in the Arab region revised its estimates on labour income loss to be higher than previously predicted/estimated. The estimated number of working-hours lost in the second and third quarters of 2020 is 17 per cent and 12 per cent respectively, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 and a 3.7 per cent increase relative to the previous estimate for the second quarter. This translates into 10 million full-time jobs lost in quarter 2 and 8 million full-time jobs lost in quarter 3, amounting to a total of US$45 billion (3.4 per cent of GDP) in labour income loss in the first three quarters of 2020.1

This increased inactivity – which disproportionally impacts women and girls – has further exacerbated violence at home, with growing gender-based violence accounts. The latest quarterly update from UNICEF in the region on the impact of COVID-19 on children indicated increased violence against women and girls in 50 per cent of countries, based on information from implementing partners, external reports and UNICEF studies.2

With regards to RCCE, compliance with prevention measures is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, as individuals and communities have not yet shifted to practicing short-term behavioural measures as part of daily life and accepting the ‘new normal’. This is being exacerbated by increasing public uncertainty, misunderstanding and eroding

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1 ILO Monitor, September 2020.
2 Tracking of Situation of Children, 3rd Quarter, UNICEF.
confident in containment strategies. An integrated multi-sectoral RCCE approach aligned with broader public health measures and policies is needed to enhance community resilience and organization for public commitment to sustain prevention practices. Communities need to be engaged more directly with decision-making and action to enable trust, ownership and joint accountability. The collection and use of improved localized, routine evidence and innovation as well as mobilisation of sub-national stakeholders, community leaders and local influencers is central to this.

Moreover, countries in the region continue to seek ways to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services according to the context and needs of the community. National health information systems have shown some recovery in routine immunization services in some countries; however, information gaps remain due to reporting delays possibly driven by measures taken against COVID-19. The number of children treated for SAM is lower than the same number this time last year, due to various factors. These are mainly a reduced demand for nutrition treatment services due to the fear of contagion and discontinuation of mobile services, leading to a lower reporting rate by partners from 92 per cent to 61 per cent compared to the same time last year. Countries are starting to experience a double burden of dealing with multiple outbreaks; Sudan and Yemen have recently reported cases of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (cVDPV) and measles. This is likely to complicate things further, as over 15 million children could not receive their scheduled polio and measles vaccines with postponement of campaigns in Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti, Iraq, Yemen and Sudan.

During the reporting period, the regional office, with support from Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), finalized the monitoring of COVID-19 WASH responses taken by 14 countries until the end of August, with a focus on those countries where UNICEF has active WASH programs. According to preliminary findings, this monitoring indicates needs remain high, specifically for WASH supplies (especially for hand hygiene, domestic water), as well as IPC training in health center facilities, schools, other public institutions and camp settings, with some limited evidence of monitoring of the effectiveness of IPC measures.

The start of the new school year took a bumpy road: schools in 2 of the 3 countries that opened in August, closed again partially or fully, while the school year is in full swing in most of the Gulf countries and Tunisia. In the UAE, education continued fully online. In Jordan and Iran, schools that opened physically, closed again after two weeks of operations for most classes and went online. Sudan and Libya decided to postpone the opening date to end of November and December, respectively. While governments with the support of partners, managed to bring in key supplies such as hand sanitizers, masks (where required) and in some cases disinfection, not all schools are covered and many continue to lack adequate WASH facilities. In addition, there is concern with replenishing basic supplies during the year as this requires additional funding. A key challenge remains addressing anxiety of communities (parents and teachers) of going back to school physically, while the numbers of COVID-19 cases keep increasing. In addition, preparing the system and teachers for the ‘new reality’, where education will take shape in a hybrid mode, combining face-to-face and remote learning, will remain a challenge for a while.

The gender impact of the pandemic is amplified across all sectors, as a recent global WHO survey that included countries from the region, signaled an estimated alarming 8.3 - 38.6 per cent increase in maternal deaths per month. Within the region, data from countries with high maternal mortality rates (Sudan and Yemen) indicates close to a 50 per cent reduction in utilization of ante-natal services, and a 50 per cent reduction in skilled birth delivery in Yemen and 20 per cent in Sudan in July 2020 compared to 2019 figures. The region also witnessed increased infections among health workers, where the majority of nurses, midwives and support staff at medical facilities are women. Nearly 60 per cent of survey respondents in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan reported feeling less safe due to GBV in their homes and communities.

Assessments across the region continue to indicate increased risks of GBV with reduced access to safe, survivor-centered services due to ongoing movement restrictions or limitations on services. Data from GBV service providers in Lebanon and Iraq indicate that risks of domestic violence and violence from the spouse have increased since the outbreak of COVID-19. The recent gradual reopening of safe spaces and access to services have increased access to safe reporting channels for women and girls to report incidents of GBV, with service providers reporting higher cases of domestic and intimate partner violence than during more restrictive lockdown periods; UNICEF across MENA advocates for GBV services to be considered essential and thus more available beyond remote service provision while seeking ways to make digital platforms safer and more accessible for women and girls. Data from several assessments across the region indicate situations where family members have denied women and girls access to quarantine or health facilities owing to strict gender and social norms. Where possible, UNICEF has advocated for and included GBV and SEA risk mitigation into inter-agency guidance on quarantine and isolation centers.

The socio-economic challenges across countries in the region continue as a result of COVID-19 related lockdowns, as well as disruptions in trade and tourism. Along with a sharp economic downturn, job losses are expected to soar in many countries including Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan. Other shocks (such as flooding in Sudan, continued inflation in much of the region, fluctuating oil prices) have further exacerbated this situation. All of this highlights the need for continued and systemic social protection responses, including cash assistance, to protect families and children.

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3 Conducted in 5 regions including Mediterranean and Africa regions released in August 2020 across 118 country responses.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Across the region, collection and use of RCCE evidence and community feedback is being stepped up to inform national efforts and guide local actions. To date, over 275 million and almost 41,500 people have been reached and engaged respectively, while over 860,000 individuals have provided feedback. Countries such as Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt have completed national studies on COVID-19 knowledge, attitudes, practices and drivers of behaviors. In others – such as Syria, Morocco, State of Palestine and Libya – these are planned or underway. UNICEF and regional partners have disseminated preliminary findings from secondary data analysis of social norms and cultural practices influencing COVID-19 prevention to guide further data collection and social listening. Sub-national level mobilization and engagement of district and municipalities have also been increased for more de-centralized responses. In Lebanon, UNICEF partnered with community-based organizations reaching 1,100 households with door-to-door visits, in addition to large industries and religious leaders in the Qsar Naba municipality. In Libya, UNICEF partnered with the Souq Al-Jumma, Misrata and Ghat municipalities as well as their governmental, academic, youth and community-based organizations (i.e. National Center for Disease Control, University of Misurata, Libyan Red Crescent, Libyan Association of Medical Students, and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides) for localized campaigns and expanded community engagement. In the State of Palestine, community committees in eight governorates have been formed, trained and are reporting countering COVID-19 related stigma.

UNICEF supported continuity of health & nutrition services for 6,534,789 women/children and trained 8,448 health workers in managing COVID-19 cases. Moreover, 230,504 children received SAM treatment while 2,256,159 caregivers have received messages on breastfeeding. While there has been recovery of routine immunization services in some countries (nearly 2.8 million children protected in Syria and Yemen through campaigns), data are still limited. UNICEF has also been supporting outbreak response beyond COVID-19 in Yemen and Sudan, to include circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus and measles, mainly on vaccine management and RCCE.

As of the month of September, UNICEF reached nearly 16 million individuals with critical WASH supplies in the form of hygiene kits, soap and hand sanitizers. Over 170,000 healthcare workers have received PPEs (including gloves and masks) and 12,000 health workers and health professionals received IPC training to date. Delays in receiving supplies remain a challenge as most offshore procurement are impacted by the slowdown of transportation during COVID-19.

To ensure learning continuity, UNICEF supported remote learning in all MENA countries, reaching nearly 5 million children by the end of September. In addition, UNICEF continued to support Ministries of Education (MoE) to prepare for reopening schools through hybrid and safe operation. For example, efforts are ongoing in GAO countries, Sudan, Egypt and Algeria, among others, to roll-out the Teacher Preparedness Training Package, developed by UNICEF’s MENA regional office. In addition, UNICEF continues direct support to specific vulnerable groups of students: in Algeria, UNICEF provided hygiene supplies to Sahawari children and teachers, and in Iraq, UNICEF provided blended learning to IDP children in South Mosul camps.

Moreover, with regards to the gender equality component of the response, around 750,000 pregnant women in most vulnerable areas have benefited from essential maternal health packages. Specific interventions included capacity in sexual and reproductive health (Egypt, Yemen), emergency obstetric care supplies for 800 delivery facilities in most vulnerable areas (Libya), as well as infant and young child feeding counselling (Sudan, State of Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq). Partnerships with local NGOs have allowed for telephone counselling for high risk pregnant women in the Gaza City, support to primary health care-ante natal care services (Sudan, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq) and impact assessments (Iran). Additionally, education activities – to reach to most vulnerable girls – included efforts to secure internet access for distant learning and laptops distribution (Jordan, Libya), distribution of education supplies to girls in community schools (Egypt), supporting WASH infrastructure in schools to ensure girl access (Morocco, Sudan) as well as supporting MHH in schools (State of Palestine). As to RCCE efforts, while information access by girls and women remains a challenge, the region has expanded partnerships with local women groups. Examples include: partnerships with Imams and female religious leaders to organize community engagement (Yemen), partnering with two NGOs to support Rapid Pro platform data collection and beneficiary feedback activities (Djibouti), partnering with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood to engage girls and boys on positive gender roles and engaging via National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative’s Facebook Page “Dawwie” (Egypt). In Sudan, efforts focused on engaging women groups by using gender responsive design and empowering women local groups. Whilst maintaining continuity of specialized GBV services through civil society and government partnerships, UNICEF has also prioritized strengthening capacity for GBV integration and risk mitigation in all aspects of COVID-19 response. Over 4,700 UNICEF personnel and partners have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, while UNICEF continues to expand reach for women, girls, men and boys have access to safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse. In Yemen, for example, UNICEF has utilized a Grievance Redressal Mechanism that is set up not only for the Emergency Cash Transfer Project but other programs including Health & Nutrition, WASH, and Education. All call center agents have been trained to receive SEA allegations and forward them immediately for action using an established protocol and PSEA messages are fully integrated into the program intervention. Detention of migrants and other serious violations of their rights at border crossings have remained an issue of concern since the beginning of the pandemic in several MENA countries. While advocacy on this matter has been challenging, in some contexts promising interagency collaboration efforts are emerging: in Saudi Arabia, the newly formed UN Network of Migration, supported by UN

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Regional Offices, are developing a joint proposal for the government, offering a multi-layered intervention to address the situation of stranded migrants.

UNICEF’s response continues to support social protection systems strengthening: through continued evidence generation on evolving socio-economic needs (Algeria, Egypt, Sudan); drafting of policy options for continued social protection responses (Jordan, Morocco, Iraq, Lebanon), and operational support in continuation and expansion of social protection support to families (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia). With UNICEF support, governments are taking the lead in unveiling longer term shock responsive and child inclusive social protection strategies (e.g: Jordan, Morocco) with the COVID-19 crisis serving as a catalyst for planned reforms (e.g: Iraq). In Egypt, UNICEF has supported the government in generating evidence of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 via phone surveys (results expected to be launched in early October), as well as providing technical support in the expansion of the Takaful and Karama cash transfers for poor families with children (reaching an additional 310,000 HHs since mid-2020). Beyond these efforts, UNICEF has continued to provide direct support via Humanitarian Cash Transfers in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Syria – usually to complement government-led social protection initiatives.

UNICEF Country Offices Programme Response

In each country where it has presence, UNICEF intensified its support to the COVID-19 response as follows:

**Algeria**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**
- UNICEF, with its partner International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) and in coordination with the Sahrawi health and education sectors, launched an awareness-raising campaign on the sanitary protocol in schools for the benefit of 67 school nurses in the context of COVID-19. The campaign beneficiaries include 40,000 school-age children and their families and 2320 schoolteachers.

**Supporting access to education, child protection and GBV services**
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to conduct high school exams safely by purchasing individual protection products such as reusable masks and hygiene kits for 400,000 students (age 14-18) and education staff at 1,000 exam centers in the most marginalized regions.
- UNICEF supported the Saharawi education sector in organizing the Back to School campaign on 13 September and providing 40,000 refugee children and education staff with 84,800 washable and reusable masks, 10,000 liters of liquid soap and 3,460 liters of hydro-alcoholic gel.

**Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)**
- The United Nations Supply task force – led by the Government with UNICEF being a key member – was set up and regular meetings were held to strengthen coordination and joint efforts between UN agencies to support the government in providing critical medical and IPC supplies.
- UNICEF provided the Saharawi health workers with 108,128 PPE units, 2000 unit of hand sanitizers and 1,355 hygiene hospital items for the benefit of nearly 100 health workers.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**
- UNICEF supported Saharawi health actors in the management of COVID-19 cases by supplying 52 oxygen bottles to strengthen the care of patients with COVID-19.

**Social protection & social sector financing**
- In September, UNICEF has been involved, as a key member of the steering committee, in the socio-economic impact study of COVID-19 crisis on households and companies. The study is coordinated by UNDP under the leadership of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES). UNICEF ensures that vulnerable children issues are well addressed in the study. Through its participation in the study, UNICEF aims to influence the recovery plan especially on issues related to social protection and funding allocations for children.

**Djibouti**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in launching the RCCE campaign as part of the back to school intervention in the context of COVID-19.
- A telethon mobilizing various high government officials, influencers, medical staff, parliamentarians, youth, UNICEF and WHO representatives was organized to increase public awareness on the COVID-19 prevention measures. 10,000 people have been reached via social media and 100,000 via TV.

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**
- Based on the national Back to School safe plan jointly developed by UNICEF and Ministry of Education, UNICEF has mobilized all the key stakeholders in the Education sector to support the Ministry of Education in securing effective national return to school in a safer environment.
UNICEF, in partnership with CARITAS, continues provision of services - food assistance, hygiene kits, health care and family reunification services - for vulnerable children (street children, children on the move, unaccompanied and/or separated children).

Continued and extended partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) contributed to psychosocial support to refugee children and support with family placement of unaccompanied and/or separated children. 891 children were reached through Child Friendly Spaces (320 girls and 571 boys). 28 children with disabilities (12 girls and 16 boys) benefitted from school transportation while 61 children were reached through home visits. A total of 356 children (194 girls and 162 boys) and 13 foster parents benefited from community-based mental health and psychosocial support.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided 30 handwashing facilities which were installed in public places within vulnerable communities to help targeted populations with handwashing. This support has and continues to benefit around 500 persons per day. In addition, around 1300 poor families in peri urban areas were targeted by soap distribution operations and more than 25,000 persons were covered directly by the hygiene promotion activities in partnership with Djibouti City Hall.

More than 345 migrants have gained daily access to WASH services (water distribution through tankers) in quarantine centers.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

UNICEF DCO continued to support the continuity of health and nutrition services within the on-going COVID-19 context through the intensification of field monitoring and supervision of activities.

Social protection and social sector financing

UNICEF contributed financial assistance for 3,917 vulnerable families from the 65,000 of the Ministry of Social Affairs COVID-19 response program; of these households 1094 are headed by women and 2350 include children.

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Social Affair to better organize the data collection and reporting as to clearly disaggregate the results by age and gender, therefore helping to inform about the number of children reached through the vouchers system.

Egypt

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

On 10 September, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) with technical and financial support from UNICEF and WHO launched a joint multi-media campaign. Comprising audio-visual and digital products, the campaign mobilizes the popular actor and comedian Ahmed Amin to encourage prevention measures, nutrition, immunity, and mental health/stigma.

UNICEF disseminated 300,000 copies of the Home Isolation & Nutrition booklet to the most vulnerable populations through the MoHP.

UNICEF supported the MoHP to reach additional 202,164 families with interactive messaging counseling on health and nutrition best practices for pregnant and lactating mothers within the COVID-19 context. The average rate of post engagement on the MoHP 1000 Days Facebook page was 64,914.

In order to engage girls and boys on positive gender roles and maintaining healthy practices in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, UNICEF reached 48,467 girls and boys and engaged 1,938 engaged (69% female,) through the National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative’s Facebook Page (Dawwie).

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) to reach additional 15,000 vulnerable households through a RapidPro based COVID-19 related quiz.

50 additional social workers from MoSS have been trained in positive parenting during COVID-19.

90 trained volunteers from The Egyptian Youth Initiative reached an additional 17,679 peers and parents, engaging 3,645 through the Initiative’s Facebook Page. Furthermore, the step-down training resulted in ,260 volunteers trained.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population by developing the technical guidance on safe school reopening, which outlines key safety measures necessary before school reopening and during the school year.

Furthermore, UNICEF has started the discussion to contextualize the MENARO Teacher Preparedness Training Package for targeted governorates.

UNICEF distributed 4,508 textbooks serving 1,740 students (1,176 female) and educational supplies to enhance distance/home-based in community schools in Assiut, Upper Egypt.5

A total of 4,651 children and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support, 4,287 children were reached through emergency programs (3,590 Egyptians and 697 refugee communities), 90 through Ministry of Social Solidarity case management units, and 274 through partnering NGOs providing

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5 Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNICEF reached a total number of 11,509 students (6,425 Egyptians and 5,084 Refugees).
specialized services to Egyptian children. In addition, 225 children were provided with psychosocial messaging through the emergency programs whilst over 1,800 calls to families of the government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfers program beneficiaries were reached.

- Through UNICEF’s financial and technical contribution, 49 social workers from Ministry of Social Solidarity case management units continued to be provided with the coaching program through the American University in Cairo, in order to enhance their life and professional skills and support them during the pandemic, wherein averagely each has benefited from seven sessions. In addition, in partnership with El Rakhawy Institute, UNICEF launched its capacity-building program to social workers in care institutions, starting with 14 social workers in Alexandria, in order to equip them with knowledge and skills needed to provide psychosocial support to institutionalized children.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF procured and delivered additional 168,200 gloves, 80,000 gowns, for health facilities nationwide enough to protect additional 30,053 health providers. In addition, UNICEF procured and delivered to the MoHP a total of 3,974,100 gloves, 1,948,650 surgical masks, 2,050 N95 masks, 353,115 gowns, 3,000 coverall and 100 face shields, enough to protect a cumulative of 111,226 front-line personal.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- At the request of the MOHP, UNICEF facilitated additional 30 online training sessions for 909 managers and health professionals, including training of 350 health staff on infection prevention and control, training of 261 health staff on Prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), and training of 398 of health professionals in primary health care centers on patient flow and protocol for referral of suspected COVID-19 cases.
- An estimated 9,504 caregivers of children aged 0-23-months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages through social media and community platforms (cumulative 344,083 caregivers).
- An estimated 202,517 women and children 6 received essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities (130,676 children benefited from immunization and growth monitoring, 2,224 children benefited from IMCI, while 29,162 women benefitted from post-natal services and 40,455 from antenatal care).

Social protection and social sector financing

- The results for the first round of the survey has been shared with selected stakeholders and partners. Approximately 1,600 interviews showed that 4 in 5 households reported a decrease in household income and 3 in 5 reported a decrease in expenditure mainly on items on food and clothing, compared to pre-COVID-19. Also, 1 in 5 of those working before, were unemployed at the time of survey.
- The government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfer programme (TKP) continues to include additional beneficiaries to the programme with 82,092 new families enrolled, to continue efforts to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19. UNICEF’s technical support provided through the secondment of a senior advisor includes coordination of programme implementation, overall management for the design and implementation of the M&E system, conducting regular field visits, and reporting to enhance the dissemination of lessons learned, research and key achievements, in addition to advising on policy coordination for the COVID response.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, with the technical support of UNICEF (through the senior advisor), coordinated the creation of the database of casual workers, expected at 12 million while the currently registered in the National Organization for Social Insurance are only 417,000 workers, to serve as the basis for a potential expansion of social insurance beneficiaries. Also, to respond to COVID-19 and mitigate the effects of a second wave.

Gulf Area (Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF GAO in the UAE, with technical support from MENARO and HQ, partnered with the Ministry of Education to adapt and contextualize the MENARO Teacher Preparedness Training Package for the national context. The package is being rolled out with an initial orientation completed in the Emirate of Sharjah, reaching 450 participants comprised of teachers, social workers and school administrators.
- UNICEF GAO in Kuwait, with UNESCO and UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, conducted the first webinar series addressing education continuity. The first session “Education and Inclusiveness during COVID-19 times” had 70 participants from government, partners and individual practitioners. Offering reflections on the national context were the Deputy Minister of State for Youth Affairs and the Assistant Undersecretary of Ministry of Education. The dialogue probed the impact of school closures, challenges in ensuring inclusive education through remote learning and provoked commitments in the lead-up to school opening in early October.
- The UN family in KSA, including UNICEF have jointly developed a package of 14 training and information webinars in support of the National Family Safety Programme that will cover a range of topics addressing protection concerns faced by women and children in the context of COVID-19.

6 A total of 1,027,560 women and children received essential services through UNICEF support since the beginning of the response.
Iran
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- There was a high focus on developing and disseminating new and updated messaging content. UNICEF disseminated English and Persian versions of online pedagogic content on ‘children’s mental health upon returning to school’, ‘what parents need to know about school re-opening’ and ‘tips for wearing masks’, via its digital platforms. A series of infographics (in both English and Persian) on parenting tips in the context of COVID-19 were shared through social media. UNICEF also disseminated via its digital platforms a series of videos produced with Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) focusing on COVID-19 prevention amongst adolescents. Aligned to this, 37 online communication materials and posts were developed and disseminated through UNICEF’s website, YouTube, Aparat (Iranian YouTube), Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Iranian Goodwill Ambassador's account and UNICEF’s supported adolescent wellbeing clubs.

- Through these efforts, UNICEF-supported channels of communication reached 5,730,080 people (38% female) and engaged 3,218,959. In addition, as a result of these new materials and messaging, UNICEF’s Instagram followers reached 310,000 with 12 per cent increase compared to the last month.

- UNICEF launched a participatory remote communication program in cooperation with the State Welfare Organization for children with disabilities (CWD) and their parents and engaged 33,000 CWD to creatively share their experiences and messages while benefiting from rehabilitative and developmental aspects of the program.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Education in documenting its response to COVID-19. The report is titled “The Resilience of the Education System through Blended Learning Approach during School Closure (Iran's experience in maintaining education continuity during the COVID-19 outbreak)“.

- Provision of Psychosocial Support Service services to children in Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centers (JCRCs) and incarcerated mothers in women prisons by the trained professionals is ongoing in 31 provinces. So far, this intervention has reached its target and Psychosocial Support Service services have been provided to more than 1,108 children in JCRC and 197 incarcerated mothers in women prisons.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- In partnership with the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, and State Welfare Organization, UNICEF procured WASH and IPC materials including diapers, liquid and gel hand sanitizers, liquid hand soap, surface sanitizer, N95 and surgical masks, latex gloves, pulse oximeters, and temperature guns; all were delivered to the partners to serve 31,894 children in challenging settings, through a network of 11 NGOs.

- UNICEF has supported COVID-19 response of Prisons Organization to address the needs of 1,108 juveniles in the Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centers (JCRC) and 197 infants of incarcerated mothers in women prisons throughout the country, through procurement and distribution of diapers, latex gloves, masks, temperature guns and pulse oximeters along with psycho-social materials.

- Following the coordination meeting between UNICEF, Ministry of Education (MoE), and MoHME, the results of a preliminary needs assessment was shared with UNICEF, including water storage tanks, disinfecting machine pumps, medical masks, hand sanitizers, and surface sanitizer, for 1,000 schools in five provinces (Sistan & Baluchestan, Kerman, Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and Bushehr).

- Ministry of Interior conducted a needs assessment for 496,000 vulnerable children (310,000 Iranian and 186,000 refugees) to WASH, nutrition, health, etc. as IPC measures in response to COVID-19. UNICEF has been responding to the hygiene needs of 120,000 vulnerable children with the local procurement of essential hygiene items for vulnerable children in the less advantaged provinces as part of the collaboration around the Child-friendly Cities Initiative. The hygiene needs of 32,000 vulnerable children across six less developed provinces of Sistan & Baluchistan, Hormozgan, Kerman, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, and Khuzestan in South East and South Western.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In collaboration with MoHME, a breastfeeding counselling center has been established, aiming to provide breastfeeding counselling services to 50,000 mothers.

- 1,902 COVID-19 test kit packs (with 96 test kits each) have been procured from the ECHO and Japan funding and are expected to arrive in Iran in the last week of September. 182,592 persons will benefit from these kits.

- UNICEF has supported MOHME, maternal, child and HIV units in developing an internal report on the drop-in service uptake due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The report includes impact assessment of the outbreak on vaccination, maternal and neonatal health services, as well as HIV testing of pregnant women in the framework of the Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission program.

Social protection and social sector financing

- On 13 September, during a high-level steering committee meeting co-chaired by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator, the Socio-Economic Response Framework (SERF) was endorsed in presence of all national government’s counterparts. The framework is a joint plan between the GoI and UN partners with UNICEF leading on the shock responsive social protection (SRSP) pillar. The SRSP pillar includes the development of a social registry and more inclusive methods of targeting.
Iraq
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- UNICEF reached 2.5 million people across all media channels and engaged 50,000 individuals.
- Aligned to the next generation RCCE focus on COVID-19 prevention and continuity of health and social services, news media coverage was accelerated through a UNICEF press release on the IPC cascade training conducted in the center and south, that was quoted seven times over key national and regional media sites. Advocacy and messaging on education, and specifically on safety while taking one’s examination, was also strengthened.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
- UNICEF supported both ministries, Federal and KRG, to scale up and strength the capacity for distance learning, both online and education TV – requiring further investment for the next academic year, by operationalizing the approach and improving/expanding the contents, subjects variety and coverage of all grades.
- Based on the telephone survey in August, 288,566 pupils in North Iraq are accessing the educational TV channel. In Federal Iraq, 1,689,540 children are accessing the Newton distance learning platform.
- UNICEF supported 1,735 exam centers with hygiene kits which benefited 243,055 children (Grade 12) sit exams in a safe environment.
- Children released from detention, UNICEF continued to undertake awareness and advocacy for the release of children from detention facilities. During the last two weeks a total of 38 juveniles (all boys) were released from various detention facilities across federal Iraq and Kurdistan region of Iraq. This brings the total number of children released since the start of COVID-19 pandemic to 546 (62 girls).
- Access to child protection services: a total of 8,638 individuals (3,185 girls, 3,101 boys, 1,186 women and 1,166 men) were reached with core child protection services including case management services for 591 children; in-person with consideration of social distancing and remote psychosocial support 5,695 children and 2,142 adults were reached, while 210 care takers were provided with parenting education. Furthermore, a total of 2,206 individuals (535 girls; 555 boys; 613 women and 503 men) were also reached with awareness messages on prevention of violence and COVID-19 risk mitigation.
- Gender based violence services (GBV): UNICEF, in collaboration with its implementing partners provided GBV management services to 345 individuals (244 women, 80 girls, 12 boys and 9 man), used GBV sub-cluster approved remote and in person service delivery modalities which includes home visit where appropriate. Additionally, 547 individuals (279 women, 268 girl) received psychosocial support services, while 1,393 individuals (622 women, 500 girls, 118 boys and 153 men) were reached with community trainings and awareness-raising sessions, promoting GBV prevention and safer environment for women and girls. Furthermore, 103 GBV service providers and community volunteers (42 women, 61 men) were trained on GBV Risk Mitigation and Mainstreaming while 158 adolescent girls completed the minimum 8 sessions of Adolescent girls’ toolkit program.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- 510 municipal workers from 17 municipalities promoted their awareness on hand hygiene and how to wear mask and latex gloves through their engagement in IPC training sessions within Baghdad.
- Support 9 healthcare facilities with communal garbage bins, 660L to enable (3,600) health workers and clients proper garbage collection and disposal in Baghdad.
- Support 9,000 health workers with surgical masks and latex gloves.
- Mobilization of 8,000 locally produced hand sanitizers and 15,000 toilet soap bars for pilgrims during Al Arbaeen religious occasion, while the distribution will be carried out by 30 youth group of volunteers (40% female) to an estimated 10,000 children and their families.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- 3,698 children (between 6-59 months) were screened with MUAC for growth in the Internal Displaced Persons (IDP)/Refugees’ camps (total cumulative achieved 30,647 recipients).
- 28 Sever Acute Malnutrition cases were identified in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps and referred for management to the NRCs (total cumulative achieved 427 recipients).
- 130 Moderate Acute Malnutrition cases were identified in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps and received proper management (total cumulative achieved 1,021 recipients).
- 1,644 pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from IYCF counselling in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps (total cumulative achieved 14,600 recipients).
- Data on infants (aged <12m) vaccinated against measles in 10 UNICEF-focus governorates is not available yet (total cumulative achieved 251,345 recipients).
- Women received/benefited from ANC/PNC visits in the 10 UNICEF-focus governorates (total cumulative achieved 51,821 recipients).
Social protection and social sector financing

- The Government of Iraq is facing implementation issues with operators and an ever-tightening fiscal constraints. This has led to limited resources to continue the implementation of Minha. UNICEF has supported the Government of Iraq to: (a) try to prioritize households based on poverty/vulnerability and (b) advocate with Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Finance to secure additional budget.
- UNICEF conducted a consultation with Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to present the outputs and discuss the activities as part of the joint EU-UNICEF-ILO-WFP proposal being developed to support the Government of Iraq in leveraging social protection response to COVID to help accelerate social protection systems reform (especially supporting life-cycle coverage, integration between social protection and social services and strengthened delivery systems).

Jordan
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- With UNICEF’s support, the national COVID-19 campaign reached more than one million people through partners’ social media platforms and an estimated 4.2 million people through online portals, as well as 700,000 people via the social media platforms of various ministerial offices. About 2.6 million people were engaged through social media influencers’ Instagram stories. The outdoor media campaign displayed key messages on billboards and digital screens in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba and other governorates, reaching more than 1.2 million people, with display screens at gas stations reaching nearly 2.1 million people, and nearly 7,000 printed packages distributed to ministries and private sector locations.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs (MoAIA), to reach over 1.5 million through their social media channels and direct in-person awareness activities; 300,000 people through 60 episodes aired on the radio; 200,000 through 15 sermons, and over 180,000 through success stories on COVID-19 prevention. To support this 7,000 printed versions and 17,000 online versions of 35 sermons were distributed to all male and female preachers through MoAIA.
- UNICEF reached 6,139 individuals (43 percent female) in refugee camps and host communities through 230 WhatsApp messaging groups with COVID-19 risk mitigation and hygiene information.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF directly supported distance learning for an additional 286 children (52% female), bringing the total to 60,170 children (52% female) through certified non-formal education Drop-Out and Catch-Up programs (4,046 children), the distribution of printed learning materials in refugee camps and informal tent settings (19,313 children), Makani centers in host communities (31,313 children), learning support for children with disabilities (2,134 children), remote learning for KG2 (one year before primary) children in host communities (704 children) and through social media education channels (2,660 children).
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in developing the safe school health protocol, which informed the reopening of schools.
- To accelerate learning recovery, UNICEF developed and launched the Learning Bridges program on 20 September with the Ministry of Education, to provide blended project-based learning for 850,000 children in Grades 4–9.
- A total of 2,025 young people (66% female) in Jordan are enrolled in online courses on the UNICEF Jordan Youth Learning Passport platform.
- Cumulatively, a total of 74,065 children (54 per cent girls) and 21,811 adults (83 per cent female) received community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Makani centres; specialized case management services; and helpline support, implemented in partnership with the Jordan River Foundation.
- UNICEF Jordan’s U-Report WhatsApp daily messages were sent to 294 families, providing parenting tips, family engagement ideas, and information about psychosocial support, gender-based violence and protection helplines.

By September, all Makani centres in camps, host communities and ITSs resumed in-person service delivery at the centres, while taking the necessary social distancing and infection prevention measures to protect Makani beneficiaries from COVID-19.

UNICEF also indirectly supported the provision of distance learning by providing technical and financial support to the MOE, benefiting 412,014 children (53 per cent female).

Schools in host communities opened on 1 September, while schools in camps opened on 7 September to allow for COVID-19 testing for all camp teachers and administrators. The emergence of COVID-19 cases in Azraq refugee camp have delayed KG2 opening and cases in both Azraq and Za’atari refugee camps led to a shift to distance learning on 13 September. On 14 September, the Government of Jordan announced that all schools would shift to remote learning for a period of two weeks for children in KG and grades 4–11, with in-person learning for grades 1–3 and 12 as optional, starting on 17 September as part of a nationwide effort to stem the increase in daily cases. An exception was later made, allowing for the option to opt for in-person learning, for KG2 and grade 11 for schools following international streams of education, starting on 20 September.

Learning Bridges links textbooks and technology, schools and homes, and knowledge and applied learning. Schools will provide students with weekly printed materials, linked to core curricula objectives, and additional online resources for those with access to technology.

The Youth Learning Passport platform, powered by Microsoft, is available free-of-charge through this [link](#).

Instances of double-reported beneficiaries who benefitted from more than one UNICEF-supported protection service may occur. The number of supported adults is slightly less than reported in the previous situation report due to data cleaning and verification processes, which identified double-reporting.

UNICEF’s U-Report is a social messaging tool, in the form of a packaged product built on the RapidPro open source software that enables and empowers people to speak out and provide their perspective on a wide range of important issues in their communities. U-Report is a free, non-exclusive tool for community participation, but aims to empower young people to
Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF continued providing an increased water supply, totaling 5.7 million to 6.5 million liters daily to Azraq, Za’atari, and KAP refugee camps to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 and due to high summer temperatures. Similarly, in the Rukban settlement, UNICEF increased the supply of water to over 60 liters of water per person per day for more than 12,000 people, the majority of whom are children and their families.
- In Za’atari camp, UNICEF and partners completed a blanket distribution of 190,000 soap bars to over 64,000 refugees (50 per cent female).
- UNICEF donated 500,000 soap bars and 14,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to the Ministry of Education (MoE), which have been distributed to schools across Jordan prior to their reopening.
- UNICEF conducted IPC trainings for the 30 school directors (47 per cent female) in Za’atari camp and 20 school directors (65 per cent female) in Azraq camp in preparation for their reopening. Additionally, in coordination with MOE, UNICEF provided IPC trainings of trainers to prevent and control COVID-19 spread at schools in all MoE Directorates, targeting 81 schools’ health officers (36 per cent female).
- In August, UNICEF completed emergency maintenance for tap stands and WASH infrastructure in 32 of the most vulnerable schools in Jordan prior to their reopening, benefiting 20,343 children (46 per cent female). These were identified through a comprehensive study conducted by USAID in July.
- UNICEF supported the production of 47,000 non-medical face masks for distribution in Syrian refugee camps, informal tented settlements (ITSs), remote areas, and other areas of high vulnerability, providing livelihood opportunities for 53 vulnerable young people.
- In September, UNICEF and its partner distributed 155 cleaning kits and 884 soap bars to the most vulnerable families in Baqa’a Palestinian refugee camp.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- To strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health (MoH) to manage the increased number of severe COVID-19 cases in hospitals, UNICEF donated forty intensive care unit ventilators, suitable for both pediatric and adult use, to MOH.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF in collaboration with MoH, supported the provision of mobile immunization for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian children and women in Informal tented settlements (ITSs). Through a country-wide remote immunization campaign, a total of 3,467 children under five (50 per cent female) were vaccinated according to MOH’s immunization schedule and 274 women of reproductive age were vaccinated against tetanus.
- From mid-August to mid-September, UNICEF provided essential health and nutrition services in Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps, including essential newborn care, immunization, and treatment of childhood illnesses, to 3,248 children (49 per cent girls), and identified and treated four children, including one girl, with severe acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF Jordan’s telehealth programme has provided 740 young people (64 per cent female) with telemedical services in partnership with the online platform, Altibbi.

Social protection and social sector financing

- The number of households supported by UNICEF cash transfers decreased to 7,068 households, including 21,825 children (51 per cent girls) during September, as a result of funding constraints for the Hajati program. However, 251 new Palestinian refugee families in Gaza camp in Jerash started to receive transfers this month to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis UNICEF-supported cash transfers were successfully delivered to a total of 9,818 households (24 per cent female headed), this includes 29,060 children (49 per cent girls).
- A total of 388,370 households (25 per cent female-headed households) continued to receive cash support through Jordan’s National Aid Fund, with UNICEF’s technical assistance.
- The concept note drafted by UNICEF for the Shock Responsive Social Protection chapter of the national strategy mentioned in SitRep No. 9 Report has now been approved by cabinet; UNICEF has started mobilizing expertise in order to support the operationalization of this new aspect.

Lebanon

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The National RCCE Task Force endorsed the UNICEF-led RCCE and accountability work plan for scaling-up the scope and intensity of national and local community engagement interventions given the current community transmission phase in the country. The plan includes a revised messaging toolbox and support a series of cross-sectoral activities with frontline workers, youths, and local civil society organizations to enhance feedback mechanisms.
- Following the Beirut blast, UNICEF produced and shared a multimedia package on public awareness messages adapted to the situation with RCCE partners for wider dissemination through digital platforms and TV. The package includes key messages, videos, testimonials from people affected by COVID-19, and visuals. UNICEF

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14 Altibbi is an online platform through which remote medical consultations can be provided. For more information, visit this [link](#).
and partners also engaged 1,531 children to raise awareness on COVID-19 through recreational activities in affected neighborhoods and reached 1,348 households with COVID-19 preventive measures messages through a mask distribution campaign at the municipal level.

- With multiple clusters of outbreaks being observed across the country, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with municipalities to develop and implement RCCE action plans, focusing on localized messages on protective measures. In Qsar Naba municipality for example, UNICEF with Community-based Organizations (CBO) conducted door-to-door visits reaching 1,100 households, in addition to large industries and religious leaders. UNICEF also supported an ‘RCCE Training of Trainers’ effort benefitting 86 participants from field-level sector partners who are engaged in rolling out RCCE activities in their areas of work.
- Through youth-led initiatives, UNICEF reached 2,021 individuals with COVID-19 messages and information on access to services and engaged additional 1,622 people through community mobilization activities set up in collaboration with municipalities. Further, as part of a youth-led awareness and engagement initiative, UNICEF mobilized 28 youth to distribute 17,500 masks to 3,483 families in Tarik Jdeideh and Bachoura areas.
- UNICEF reached over 900,000 people through social media with COVID-19 prevention information, and over 42 percent of audiences on major TV stations.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- As part of Cash-for-Work program, UNICEF supported 402 vulnerable youth in sewing classes with materials to produce around 150,000 cloth masks. The masks were distributed to families affected by COVID-19, vulnerable communities, points of entry and technical vocational schools. Around 37,500 masks were distributed to Tripoli municipality responding to a surge in cases in the North.
- UNICEF developed a 5-day training module for school counsellors and child protection focal points within the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The training aims to strengthen skills and competencies of facilitators on COVID-19 preventatives measures in the context of distance learning, focusing on inclusion of psychosocial support (PSS) activities, self-care, codes of conduct while providing remote learning, and positive behaviours and discipline in classrooms. Furthermore, the training provides guidance on how to deal with cases of violence observed/detected during distance learning by providing with proper safe identification and referral.
- September marks the start of the implementation of Non-Formal Education (NFE) remote learning Phase 2, planned and prepared by UNICEF and targeting 13,700 children including children with disabilities. Phase 2 is designed to provide the regular NFE programmes remotely, and consists of learning modules, PSS activities and life skills training. In addition to ongoing messages on COVID-19, UNICEF with partners is conducting remote sessions; mostly through WhatsApp messages including videos, links and activities. In addition, UNICEF ensures that the most deprived children are provided with relevant learning programmes by delivering printed files and learning material directly to their doorsteps.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF provided IPC/PPE supplies to medical staff, cleaners and patients in 8 isolation centers across Lebanon, namely Ghobeiry, Lebanese Canadian Hospital, Dmit Wardaneyeh, Kayfoun and Deir Elsalib Hospital in Mount Lebanon, and Koura Residence, Maarad and Tal Hayat in the North Governorate. Additionally, UNICEF is providing cleaning, laundry and COVID-19 solid waste collection and management services in the isolation centers, supporting 368 patients so far.
- UNICEF provided 281 IPC kits to families for home isolation and 85 household disinfection kits to families sharing facilities with affected families, along with guidance on home isolation and proper disinfection as well as COVID-19 awareness information provided through local volunteers trained by UNICEF.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF provided prenatal and breastfeeding support to 236 Lebanese and 508 non-Lebanese, reached 348 Lebanese and 423 non-Lebanese with improved access to Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health services during COVID-19, and provided lactation consultations to caregivers of two newborns after being admitted to an isolation center.
- UNICEF with partners screened 5,005 individuals including 570 children at the land border crossing points for COVID-19 and provided guidance on prevention and home isolation. The children vaccination status was also checked, and 439 children were provided with the missing measles and polio containing vaccines. UNICEF trained 180 general security officers on COVID-19 awareness and prevention messaging.
- UNICEF with partners reached 3,640 children with disabilities with fabric masks and information on safe usage.

Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF provided technical support to the Government of Lebanon’s Emergency-COVID-19 Cash Transfer (known by its acronym NSSP – National Social Solidarity Project), with the second payment reaching more than 170,000 households paid over the months of June and July and the third payment being prepared for delivery in October. In the absence of strong government leadership, UNICEF and ILO have engaged at the technical level to initiate clear documentation of the NSSP’s processes, which will be crucial for a potential partial transition of the NSSP caseload into the new national cash transfer program.
• Following the resignation of the government, while a strategy document cannot currently be approved, UNICEF now leads the overall response and recovery structure cluster on social protection alongside ILO and as such continues to lead the technical support to rapidly consolidate work done so far to produce a strategy document that will present the immediate, medium and longer-term social protection framework for Lebanon which takes into consideration COVID-19 related socio economic impacts.
• While dialogue with the IMF has been suspended and programmatic discussions cannot advance, the UNCT has now finalized a joint note on the UN’s common ‘red lines’ to submit to the IMF in September; UNICEF contributed to the draft’s section on social protection.

Libya
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners de-centralized and intensified RCCE efforts. For instance, in the Souq Al-Jumma municipality UNICEF in partnership with the National Centre for Disease Centre, the Municipal Council of Souq Al-Jumma, Boys Scouts and Girls Guides, Civil Society Institutions and the Centre for Food and Drug Control reached 250,000 individuals with COVID-19 prevention-related information as part of the 30-days national campaign targeting six most affected municipalities in Greater Tripoli.
• In Misrata municipality, UNICEF with the NCDC, University of Misrata, Emdad Charity Association, Civil Society Organizations’ Commission, Boys Scouts and Girls Guides, and the Libyan Association for Medical Students launched a Misrata-focused national awareness campaign. During the 10-days awareness campaign, UNICEF contributed to the production of 70,000 communication materials, empowering over 400,000 individuals with accurate information on COVID-19 prevention measures including handwashing practices.
• In Ghat municipality, UNICEF and the Libyan Red Crescent collaborated with the Ghat Municipal Council and conducted an extensive awareness campaign. Outreach teams reached 20,000 citizens and placed 1,200 awareness materials in pharmacies, shops and markets, bakeries, restaurants, cafes and at fuel stations.
• UNICEF continued its support to the High Scientific Committee formed under the Presential Council by producing new COVID-19 educational materials for frontline workforce managers and the public.
• Through its continued focus on COVID-19 prevention messaging, UNICEF Libya gained 1,354 new followers across its social media platforms and engaged 87,400 users.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
• UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education in the West are preparing for the safe reopening of schools. In August, UNICEF disinfected a total of 39 schools in Daher Aljabal, Nalut, Alharaba, Jadu, Yefren, Alrhebat, Almshashia, Alshkika, and Algalaa municipalities.
• UNICEF continued supporting the Ministry of Education in recording the online classes, which are broadcasted 24/7 on the TV channel “Let’s Learn” and available on the Ministries’ online platform. In August, with UNICEF’s support, the Ministry of Education recorded an additional 400 sessions of classes, reaching a total of 1,800 hours of online sessions.
• UNICEF and its partners provided mental health and psychosocial support to 169 children and caregivers in Tripoli, Tarhuna, Misrata and Zuwara through online activities. A total of 837 individuals (395 boys/men, 442 girls/women) received specialized mental health and psychosocial support in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha. Moreover, UNICEF and its partners received 1,114 calls through helpline numbers and provided information and guidance on child protection services in Tripoli, Tarhuna, Benghazi and Sabha. One Baity center in Tripoli was partially reopened for online classes. The Baity center was used as a library, providing reading resources to 24 children.
• During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partners identified and responded to the needs of 9 new cases through case management process. A total of 116 women and young girls were assisted with specialized GBV services and provided with referral pathways in Tripoli, Benghazi and Misrata, through online modality.
• Moreover, 1,339 individuals (910 female, 138 male) benefited with key child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) messages in Misrata, Tripoli, and Sebha. A total of 922 social workers, teachers and child protection actors (539 female, 83 male) were trained on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and response in Misrata.
• 75 individuals (22 boys, 23 girls and 30 men) received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) across Tripoli, including staff from local NGOs and a virtual session via WhatsApp in coordination with another child protection partner for 45 children (23 girls, and 22 boys) including 36 migrants (16 girls, 20 boys). Additionally, 1,000 joint EORE/COVID-19 awareness posters are currently being printed in Sebha for distribution. A full-length child centered EORE cartoon is under finalization.
• 4,436 children and adults have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
• In a response to reports of identification of COVID-19 positive case in Alfallah Tawerga IDP camp, UNICEF together with the local partners Libyan Society for National Reconciliation and Charity Works conducted three focused group awareness sessions. Moreover, UNICEF through its partner, distributed hygiene supplies to 1,200 individuals including 600 children. The camp was disinfected and cleaned by UNICEF contracted service provider to limit transition and maintain safe environment. UNICEF also disinfected Halles, Garounis, and
Anabeb IDP camps in Ajdabiya and three IDPs hosting schools in Benghazi. This activity benefitted 5,570 people (1,083 IDP families) including 1,856 children.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- During the reporting period, UNICEF received the shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for 20 isolation centers and 26 health facilities. The targeted health facilities will receive the required PPEs during September. This will ensure protection of frontline health workers while providing services to the community.
- As part of support for national program of immunization, UNICEF in cooperation with the NCDC resumed the cold chain inventory exercise which was initiated in January but was put on hold due to the mobility restrictions associated with COVID-19. This inventory taking exercise aims to provide information about quality and access to immunization services in the immunization centers. During the reporting period, UNICEF completed the cold chain inventory of 22 vaccination centers.

Social protection and social sector financing
- According to the findings of the most recent Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), released in September 2020, 77 per cent of the Libyans have reported no change in their employment situation due to the COVID-19. The same survey estimates that 21 per cent of the Libyan population is relying on government subsidies (Social Solidarity Fund) as the household’s main source of income.
- In addition, the latest findings of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (August) shows that between July and August, the south of Libya saw considerable price changes for essential food items. It is also reported that in South Libya, the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis in Libya, prices for paracetamol and bleach increased by 140 per cent and 79.5 per cent, respectively.
- UNICEF Libya, in partnership with others international partners, is planning to provide support to the National Economic and Social Development Board for drafting a first ever national social protection policy to take into consideration risks and shocks, including COVID-19 related medium and long-term impacts.
- Planning is underway for the HCTs to 200 households accessing Bayti centers to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

Morocco
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached a total of 4,397,009 persons, including 4,306,464 on Facebook, 91,508 on Instagram, and 1,133 on Twitter and generated 65,909 engagements. These results are from the launch of UNICEF’s social media campaign “Vivre en sécurité avec la COVID-19” aimed at promoting prevention measures in a context marked by an increased number of new cases and partial re-lockdown of the most affected neighborhoods; as well as a public advocacy announcement made by UNICEF for a safe and inclusive return to learning/school and the right to access quality learning for every child, particularly the most vulnerable.
- During the reporting period, community-level activities including for migrant populations, reached 4,876 people and received 649 feedback cases through civil society organization partners.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
- 73 migrant families were provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support and 65 migrant households received humanitarian cash transfers in Oujda and Tangiers.
- Via its partnership with a university, UNICEF supported 231 children, 125 families and 84 social workers through psychosocial support and trainings during the reporting period.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- During this reporting period, an additional 65 migrant families were reached with critical WASH supplies through the distribution of hygiene kits in Oujda through UNICEF partnerships with civil society organizations.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- A course on nutrition in the context of COVID-19 has been developed by the MoH; a total of 200 nutritionists and healthcare workers with specific interest in nutrition, mostly working at PHC level, have been selected with the support of UNICEF and will benefit from the 15 days training. The training will be delivered via the National Public Health School distance learning platform, with the support of UNICEF Morocco, starting September 21st.
- A total of 1,229 migrants were reached with COVID-19 prevention and continuity of health services promotion messages and referral towards health services, through UNICEF partners actions.

Social protection and social sector financing
- Following royal directives at the end of July for the acceleration of the social protection reform in response to the impacts of COVID-19, in September, the government of Morocco, with UNICEF technical support, is focusing efforts to accelerate the rollout of the integrated national social protection policy (PPIPS) that was launched at the end of 2019. In particular, efforts are focused on rollout of family allowances (for all families with children) and universal medical coverage and strengthening social protection governance. This includes unifying all social assistance programs into a unique national agency in Morocco as suggested and supported...
by UNICEF. All these important actions are currently prioritized by UNICEF and its partner MoF in the updating of the PPIPS's Action Plan.

Oman
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- UNICEF supported the inter-ministerial RCCE Committee with the on-going implementation of the parenting communication strategy. In September, the Committee launched a new hashtag – #ForOmansChildren – to share content relating to the strategy. The parenting strategy is paving the way for a broader – based Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy supported by the Committee to address violence against children, the inclusion of children with disabilities, and early childhood development as well as the impact of COVID-19.
- UNICEF reached approximately 166,000 people through its social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn) with messages addressing COVID-19 misinformation.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
- UNICEF supported the government to develop standard operating procedures and an operational plan for the return to Early Child Development Centers including nursery schools. The work is guided by a careful risk-based approach to maximize the educational, developmental and health benefits for children, teachers, staff and the wider community, and help prevent a new outbreak of COVID-19 in the community.
- The guidelines consider the multi-faceted impacts on young children, especially the most vulnerable, and support that may be required in relation to protection, psycho-social support, health, nutrition, and other issues that emerge and that may need to be addressed due to COVID-19 confinement measures.
- UNICEF continued to work with the Ministry of Social Development and other partners to ensure the proper functioning of the children’s hotline and the case management system (CMS) within the current COVID-19 context. UNICEF has also established and is operating a communications mechanism to provide credible and up-to-date information to social workers during the outbreak.

The State of Palestine
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners developed and disseminated new materials and messages. In partnership with UNRWA, 200,000 brochures were printed and distributed in the Gaza Strip. The brochures include information on COVID-19 main symptoms, people most at risk, prevention measures and hotline numbers. An animated TV program on COVID-19 was launched with episodes on time management and life in quarantine. Two interactive radio programs were broadcast on seven radio stations. The episodes focused on COVID-19 preventative measures, essential public health services, mental health, GBV, stigma and rumors. In addition, a new round of radio spots was broadcast on a range of topics, including living in an infected area, prevention measures for suspected cases of infection, the use of masks and protective gear, physical distancing and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A Back-to-School social media and mass media campaign was launched in the West Bank to raise awareness among teachers and students on physical distancing and hand washing.
- UNICEF supported the launch of a youth-led community awareness campaign on physical distancing and wearing masks in the context of COVID-19.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
- As of 21 September, UNICEF has trained 36,179 staff (Male 15,511; Female 20,668) from the Ministry of Education on the safe school operations guidelines.
- School hygiene kits adequate for one month were procured and distributed to 1,670 schools before the schools reopened. The kits included digital thermometers, essential hygiene and cleaning materials to disinfect and clean the premises. This enabled the schools to implement the guidelines for safe school operations.
- Through three partners, UNICEF, reached 1,515 people (1,378 in Gaza including 1,279 children, and 137 individuals in the West Bank including 13 children) with psychosocial and protection services. Services provided included case management, group and individual counselling, life skills education, child parent interaction and expressive arts.
- In the West Bank, 17 social workers (including 12 women) were trained on remote psychosocial counselling.
- UNICEF provided 89 people (including 11 boys and 2 girls) with access to safe channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF is conducting a Needs Identification Analysis Framework (NIAF) to better understand the evidence-based impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of increasing child protection risks. A preliminary report with key findings has been completed.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
- UNICEF has fully distributed both medical and waste supplies to support MoH and 50 quarantine centers in the West Bank to ensure safe and proper waste management during COVID-19 emergency response. The number of beneficiaries up until this date is approximately 5880. The provision of 200 bedding kits to Quarantine centers
in Gaza that were funded by the SDC and distributed through NRC. Each bedding kit includes; four winter blankets, six pillows, four mattresses and 1 mat, benefitting 3,200 people in total.

- Also, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the West Bank, UNICEF in coordination with MoE and a partner in the West Bank are supporting students/children to improve their access to WASH facilities in Schools in West Bank. This project will enable students in 20 public schools be reached with adequate, child-friendly infrastructure (appropriate to age, gender and disability status), including sanitation and safe drinking water facilities. Additionally, capacities will be enhanced, and awareness raised for children and caregivers in marginalized communities on best hygiene practices. A needs assessment has been conducted and the project is already in process.

- UNICEF provided e-voucher top-ups for redeeming hygiene items at local shops for 4,495 vulnerable families below the poverty line in the West Bank and 11,714 families in Gaza. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 134,579 individuals were reached. Medical and waste supplies were procured and distributed to support MoH and 50 quarantine centers in West Bank to ensure safe and proper waste management during COVID-19 emergency response. And finally, UNICEF was responsible for the procurement and provision of 200 bedding kits to Quarantine centers in Gaza Strip that were funded by the SDC and distributed through NRC. Each bedding kit includes; 4 winter blankets, 6 pillows, 4 mattresses and 1 mat.

- As the WASH Cluster Lead Agency in the State of Palestine, UNICEF led the development of the COVID-19 WASH Plan in coordination with the Cluster partners and the PWA (Palestine Water Authority). The plan aims to limit the impact of the pandemic through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions for institutions and vulnerable people living in the West Bank and Gaza. Cluster partners, including UNICEF, have aligned their priorities to ensure: (i) access to WASH services in health care facilities, IPC supplies, cleaning materials and management of waste; (ii) support to vulnerable families and communities with the provision of hygiene and cleaning items aligned with awareness messages; and (iii) support to service providers and municipalities to ensure business-continuity and provision of minimum WASH services.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
- Through UNICEF’s partners in the Gaza Strip, 750 high-risk pregnant and lactating women benefited from essential health care services. Additionally, 2,190 pregnant and lactating women benefited from tele-counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding and on COVID-19.

- UNICEF facilitated the entry of 57,600 doses of MMR vaccines to Gaza, which will serve about 28,800 children under 24 months old.

- UNICEF facilitated the entry of vaccines for human rabies (2,000 doses) and yellow fever (500 doses) to the West Bank. This will serve about 2,500 people.

Sudan
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
- Despite new challenges related to an outbreak of vaccine derived polio and flooding, UNICEF and partners reached 969,411 people through outreach activities and 23,576 through community engagement interventions in 14 states.

- UNICEF scaled up an innovative intervention to organize and engage coffee/tea/fruits and vegetable sellers to communicate COVID-19 prevention messages. 538 tea sellers and 1,110 vendors were trained on dissemination of COVID-19 prevention messages in the communities where they are active.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
- UNICEF supported the Back-to-School preparatory activities such as prepositioning of supplies, planning of community sensitization, enrolment campaigns and the contextualization of the teachers’ preparedness training package.

- The Federal Minister of Education has recently announced that the reopening of schools has been postponed from 27 September to 22 November due to difficulties in printing newly amended textbooks for Grades 1-6 and the large number of affected schools by the unprecedented Nile floods.

- Therefore, UNICEF in coordination with other partners are exploring alternatives to support the Ministry of Education to avoid further delay in school reopening.

- UNICEF Child protection worked with the National Council of Child Welfare to contextualize UNICEF’s guidelines on psychosocial support for children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. A technical committee is reviewing the guidelines and experiences from other countries while practical exercises on providing PSS will be piloted as of next week in Aljazeera state to inform the contextualization process. The final guidelines will be reviewed and approved by relevant ministries and used not only for COVID-19 but for all similar situations affecting the mental health wellbeing of children.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
A total of 37,369 population in COVID-19 high risk sites were reached with WASH and IPC supplies that combined with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion and water supply interventions. The supported population were the visitors and staff of isolation/health centers, IDPs, refugees, rural/urban population, entry point arrivals and prisoners. The below summary highlighting the support provided:
• Around 1,500 patients and medical staff (593 males, 907 females) in 2 health centers in Central and North Darfur were supported with rehabilitated sanitation facilities and WASH IPC supplies.
• Around 35,744 IDPs, refugees, rural/urban population, entry points arrivals and prisoners (17,032 males, 18,712 females) in East, West and North Darfur and Blue Nile States were supported with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion combined with the installation of handwashing facilities and distribution of WASH, COVID-19 and IPC supplies including, handwashing soaps, hand sanitizers, chlorine supplies and IEC materials as required.
• 125 individuals (52 males, 73 females) environmental health workers and community leaders in Central Darfur and Blue Nile were trained on WASH, IPC as well as COVID-19 related prevention/response interventions.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
• UNICEF has provided 4,038 healthcare facility staff and community health workers with PPE items, including 39,900 boxes of surgical masks, 22,560 surgical gowns, 9,910 coveralls, 1,300 face shields, 1,670 hand sanitizers and 5,000 boxes of gloves. An additional 362 oxygen concentrators were provided to support the COVID-19 national response.
• 801 health workers have been trained in infection prevention and control (IPC) for COVID-19 using a variety of models.
• 280 healthcare providers were trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases.
• 241,446 children and women were reached with essential health-care services. 158,871 benefitted from immunizations, 26,559 women received antenatal and postnatal care, 22,434 children received essential newborn care, and 33,582 children received treatment for childhood illnesses.
• 17,345 caregivers of children under 24 months were reached with messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in the context of COVID-19 and 19,952 children (6-59 months) suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment.

Social protection and social sector financing
• During the reporting period the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic continued to worsen in Sudan, with a major acceleration in the fall of the parallel market exchange rate and commensurate increase in the inflation rate, reaching a record high at 167 per cent in August. On 10 September, the Sudanese authorities declared an economic state of emergency, the third emergency declared in Sudan since March 2020.
• Amidst the easing of partial lockdown and gradual returns to normalcy over the past months, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Labor and Social Development (MoLSD) to strengthen its capacity for social protection service delivery to address additional economic hardship brought on by COVID-19. UNICEF support focused on technical assistance and capacity building for developing shock responsive social protection system and has engaged experts from the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) with expertise in social protection policy advisory to conduct a rapid review of social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The review – which is part of a global review being done by UNICEF – offers an opportunity for Sudan to document and learn from its social protection response to COVID-19. UNICEF is also working with MoLSD and partners to conduct a post distribution monitoring of food and hygiene assistance that reached 30,000 informal sector families in peri-urban areas of Khartoum state.

Syria
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• In Syrian Arab Republic, to date, over 12 million people have been reached through messaging on prevention of COVID-19 and access to services through interpersonal communication, distribution of brochures/leaflets, mobile campaign, as well as social media.
• In northwest Syria, UNICEF and partners engaged community-based organizations on RCCE initiatives in all nine districts, focusing on the catchment areas of 92 EPI centers. Over 17,000 household visits were conducted during the reporting period, and nearly 12,000 caregivers attended awareness sessions.
• In northeast Syria, UNICEF supported the training of 32 focal persons from camp management, civil society organizations and local communities. 20 community workers have been conducting hygiene promotion focusing on COVID-19 in Al Hol camp. Also, a community rapid assessment has been initiated in the camp to better understand people’s behaviors and the epidemiological situation through surveillance.
• A joint campaign was launched on 6 September in Areesheh camp, and 55 volunteers were on COVID-19 messages, communication skills, and community engagement.
• UNICEF and Ministries of Health and Information are airing five radio spots around physical distancing, hand washing, using masks, respiratory hygiene, and seeking medical advice on 10 public and private stations.
• UNICEF in partnership with WHO is supporting the Ministry of Information to conduct an Opinion Survey around COVID-19 targeting 6,000 individuals. Data collection is planned to begin on 1 October 2020.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
• During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support education interventions to respond to delays in school reopening and emerging needs as a result of COVID-19. In order to help improve learning opportunities for children, UNICEF has worked with partners to reach children with non-formal education online learning and 3,638 children were newly reached in the reporting period. To ensure that the most vulnerable children could continue learning through play, including about COVID-19 safety and preventative measures, UNICEF
developed and distributed a memory card game. Though final beneficiary figures are not yet available, UNICEF expects to reach roughly 150,000 children with the game and is partnering with the World Food Programme (WFP) for distribution.

- UNICEF has supported the COVID-19 preventive measures for the national exams for the 9th and 12th Grades through the distribution of cleaning kits, soaps, and personal protective equipment, to 5,000 exam centers located in 2,000 school premises across the country. Also, supervisors from the 5,000 exam centers were trained by 60 doctors from school health directorates previously trained on COVID-19.
- In the Northwest Syria, 30,593 children were supported with distance or home-based learning.
- In 16 locations in Aleppo and Idleb, 25,739 boys and girls in 206 schools and temporary learning spaces were provided with curriculum B. The lessons were taught through existing printed materials (textbooks, exercise books, and supplementary resources) combined with instructions and monitoring shared through WhatsApp.
- Finally, 7,147 boys and girls, 4,836 parents provided with awareness raising on the importance of home-based learning.
- The COVID-19 crisis and its impact on families together with the devaluation of the Syrian Pound have been aggravating pre-existing protection concerns in country. UNICEF partners have tightened precautionary measures in place including partial closure of Child Friendly Spaces while making efforts to continue delivery of psychosocial services and case management through alternative modalities. To date, 1,620 people have been trained, against the target of 1,050, on gender-based violence risk mitigation and referral to specialized services.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- During the reporting period, UNICEF continued efforts to strengthen Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in healthcare facilities through the distribution of IPC kits (soap, liquid chlorine, and cleaning items) for 1,000 centers across the country. In Dwair quarantine center, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of damaged WASH facilities.
- In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF continued to support the most vulnerable families across the country by providing soap bars through monthly distributions, along with WFP monthly food distributions targeting 3.5 million people.
- In response to suspension of operations at Alok Water Station affecting more than 460,000 people, UNICEF has continued to advocate for resumption of operations at the station and kept supporting emergency water provision (on average 500m3/day) to targeted neighborhoods in Al-Hasakeh city.
- In the northwest Syria, at least 389,500 IDPs were served with treated water for domestic consumption. Per capita water supply has been increased from 25 to 35 liter to support additional handwashing and cleaning, as a preventive measure against COVID-19.
- During the reporting period, three Training of Trainers took place for 75 participants from nursing schools on IPC for COVID-19 and rational use of PPEs. These master trainers extended their knowledge to 450 nurses and midwives in nursing schools all over the country during September 2020.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Standard operating procedure (SOP)/guidance for referral mechanisms is being drafted between WHO and UNICEF regarding breastfeeding mothers with children under 6 months of age, who are COVID-19 positive to ensure the continuity of breastfeeding while abiding by the IPC measures. Also, nutrition coordinators across all 14 governorates were trained to support and promote breastfeeding in light of COVID-19 pandemic in line with the WHO/UNICEF global guidance.
- As per achievements on continuing routine immunizations during COVID-19, 29,898 children under one year old were vaccinated with DPT3 in August 2020. The total number of children reached until August 2020 is 280,217 (54% of the annual target).
- Despite challenges with containment measures for COVID-19, UNICEF continued the provision of nutrition services, and some 3500 children had been admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

Social protection and social sector financing

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached an additional 1,500 households in poor urban areas of Aleppo governorate with an emergency cash transfer for basic needs, as part of COVID-19 response. The boost in numbers is due to MOSAL approval for both horizontal and vertical expansion of the program. This brings the total number of households (HH) reached since the beginning of the year to 22,850 HH in the governorates of Aleppo, Latakia and rural Damascus. Based on the aforementioned MOSAL approval, UNICEF has also increased the benefit level by 60% (due to hyperinflation) to help ease the financial burden on families.
- UNICEF and partners have worked on a joint response plan to COVID-19 during the month of September based on assessments carried out in the previous months.
Tunisia

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF is currently supporting the Ministry of Health with the development and launch of two new communication/sensitization campaigns. These campaigns will use different media outlets, including TV and radio spots, social media and outdoor media to normalize the use of face masks in public and raise awareness on self-quarantine protocols for those who have been at risk of contracting COVID-19.
- To date, UNICEF has cumulatively produced and disseminated over 100 communication materials and messages on COVID-19 prevention through various communication channels (TV, radio, digital content, urban display and print materials), reaching over 7 million people. In this regard, social media platforms have reached a total of 28.1 million impressions with the various communication material developed within the country (Facebook 22,924,269 impressions, Instagram 5,061,169, Twitter 36,510, LinkedIn 15,691, website 22,880 user sessions).

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF has been actively supporting the Ministry of Education in the preparation of the return to school, a key priority for the newly established government.
- In addition to equipment and supplies for the safe return to school, UNICEF supported the preparation and roll out of a communication campaign to sensitize children, parents and the general public on the importance of coming back to school and on all the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to protect children and school staff from COVID-19.
- Radio and TV spots have been prepared and are currently on air on national television/radio. The video spot on back to school has been viewed more than 50,000 times on social media.
- The set SOPs developed to deal with child victims of violence and/or vulnerable children during pandemics and crises in Tunisia has been finalized with the participation of all key governmental actors who took part in their development.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF is providing 1 million flyers and 150,000 posters on good hygiene and prevention practices to be distributed to all 6,250 public schools across Tunisia, reaching approximately 2 million beneficiaries, including children and school staff. This material is meant to remind students and staff of educational facilities about the importance to uphold key hygiene measures to limit contagion of COVID-19.
- To support the implementation of health and safety schools’ protocols, UNICEF has procured 6,620 contactless thermometers to be provided to schools to ensure a safe reopening; benefiting all the 2 million students in the country from primary to upper secondary school. Procurement of other protective and disinfection material is currently ongoing.
- UNICEF has provided WASH kits to support the safe reopening of 150 public daycare centers, targeting approximately 7,500 beneficiaries, including children and staff. These kits include not only hygiene tools (i.e.: soaps, towels, toothbrushes), but also educational materials, such as coloring books, to help children learn the importance of good hygiene practices.
- Thanks to the funds provided by USAID, UNICEF has procured a first batch of 25,000 COVID-19 RT PCR tests to strengthen the Ministry of Health early detection, tracing and case management capacities.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In coordination with WHO, UNICEF keeps providing support to the Ministry of Health to update its National Response Plan according to the epidemiological developments of the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia as well as providing advices on managing a potential second wave to maintain the continuation of essential health care services for women and children.

Social protection and social sector financing

- On 17 September, UNICEF Tunisia Representative and the Minister for Social Affairs officially signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the program “Investing towards children’s human capital through a sustainable and inclusive social protection system.” The program, supported by UNICEF and financed by KfW, will allow the Ministry of Social Affairs to start a EUR 12 million top-up cash transfer program targeting approximately 330,000 vulnerable children for a period of eight months. The program will act as a bridge supporting child related health, nutrition and school education expenditures and addressing increased vulnerabilities of children and families hit by the consequences of the pandemic until the new multi-partners budget support is launched in early 2021. In September, in synergy with the cash transfer, the communication campaign for the back-to-school in COVID-19 period was rolled-out in the country.
Yemen

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

Interventions to encourage communities to maintain COVID-19 prevention practices continues through various approaches in the reporting period:

- Community volunteers reached 97,806 people through 12,574 house-to-house visits and Mother-to-Mother sessions.
- Imams and Morshyadats engaged 74, 794 people in 1,419 community gatherings and 1,377 women social events around the maintenance of COVID-19 preventive practices.
- Imams reached about 3.6 million people in over 5000 mosques during awareness sessions in mosques, especially during Friday prayers.
- School health facilitators in Sana’a reached 40,365 people mostly parents and caregivers through 2,300 home visits and 2,251 community awareness sessions and the activities of mobile school radios.
- Members of Mother-to-Mother clubs engaged over 3.5 million people through 11,000 WhatsApp groups to reinforce COVID-19 prevention practices, among religious leaders, community volunteers, school health facilitators.
- A local drama series and a talent competition show on COVID-19 were produced and aired on Sadaah local radio targeting adolescents and youths.
- An estimated 30,000 posters and 18,000 stickers on COVID-19 were disseminated in areas with high traffic congestion.
- Close to 1,200 people called the hotline of the Ministry of Public Health and Population with questions and concerns about COVID-19.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

- The Ministry of Education, education authorities across the country and partners are working on operationalization of the National COVID-19 Education Response Plan with a focus on preparing schools for reopening (safe school protocol) coupled with alternative learning modalities.
- Distribution of prepositioned educational supplies is starting at the school level in the whole country to cover 383,186 students in collaboration with other sectors (i.e. WASH, C4D, Child Protection, Social Policy, Health, Communication, Supply and Logistics).
- UNICEF and WFP finalized the framework of a minimum joint intervention package, supporting the opening of the school year in October to enable continued learning in the situation of COVID-19.
- The new school year in Aden started on 6 September for secondary students and on 4 October for primary students. For Sana’a, the communicated date of reopening is first half of October. UNICEF and the Ministries of Education formed a task force to support the safe school reopening.

 Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- In Hodeida and Hajja, 6 COVID-19 isolation centers have been assessed for WASH needs. 166,738 IDPs and flood affected households in Sanaa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Al Dhale`a, Aden and Lahj governorates have been provided with water supply through water trucking and installation of water tanks. In Kamaran Island of Hodeida, two T-tanks (70&11 m3) were installed benefitting 900 flood affected families.
- UNICEF supported the provision of fuel for operations and maintenance of WASH systems in Al-Amana, Al-Baydaa, Dhamar, Amran, Hodeida and Hajja to ensure vulnerable population continue to have access to safe water supply, benefitting more than 2 million people. In Saada, the construction of rainwater harvesting reservoir (Al-Thar and Al-Ealif ) with total capacity of 600 m3 has been completed and is providing safe water supply to 2,520 beneficiaries. In addition, 1,500 ceramic water filters have been distributed to 8,814 people in Al-Dhaher District of - Sa’ada governorate. In Marib, UNICEF supported the construction of 69 emergency latrines, benefitting 4361 people. In Aden, 335 Emergency latrines have been constructed for IDPs in west coast AL-Hodidah and Lahj governorates. This is also complemented by draining of stagnant water, repair of drainpipes and cleaning of sewage systems in host communities. Rehabilitation of two WWTP (wastewater treatment plants) is in progress in Haja and Al -Amanah governorates which will benefit an estimated 1.5m people once they are completed.
- The rehabilitation and installation of solar units have been completed for 38 water schemes in Houdiedah, Mahweet, and Raymah rural districts, benefitting 179,800 individuals. In Amran Governorate, the rehabilitation of 5 water rural projects including installation of solar units have been completed benefiting 14,137 people.
- An assessment of WASH needs in 39 HFs has commenced in Hadramout coast and will be completed in Nov, while the ongoing rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 102 health facilities (99 health centers in Hodeida

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported the sensitization of over 4,886 health workers including 1,525 Community Health Workers (CHWs) on COVID-19 guidelines. Between March and August 2020, more than two million beneficiaries were reached by PHC services. Further COVID-19 orientations were discontinued for the moment in the North due to a directive from MOPHP to stop all COVID-19 related trainings.
- In Sana’a, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of triage points in four hospitals, Maber Hospital in Dhamar governorate, Sabeen in al Amana, Kara hospital in Marib, Amran hospital on Amran and three on the way in Sana’a governorates.
• Tents were provided in the South for 30 triage points within health facilities along with an instructional video.
• A total of 93 oxygen concentrators were distributed, and procurement of an additional 300 is in process.
• UNICEF continues to support end year school exams for Grade nine and twelve in the North with PPE for students and teachers with over 4 million USD.
• PPE was provided to 59 isolation units, distribution of PPE shipments that has arrived in Sana’a and Aden is ongoing and over 17,170 HWs have received PPEs.
• For the continuity of routine immunization services, all doses of routine vaccines required for Q4 2020, except BOPV, arrived in country. To maintain the quality of the immunization supply chain 72 more SDDs fridges installed during August totaling 306 SDDs installed in 2020 in Yemen.
• The Polio vaccination campaign was completed in 13 southern governorates, and a total of 1,186,873 children <5 received polio vaccines (96% coverage) and 905,005 children 6-59 months were supplemented with Vit-A.

Social protection & social sector financing
• A Humanitarian Cash Transfer for 40,000 households (who are not part of any current social protection schemes) to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 related socio-economic pressures is under design and expected to roll out by late October/early November. UNICEF plans to leverage existing mechanisms providing Emergency Cash Transfers for registration, delivery and to ensure duplication is not taking place. Funding has been secured for one payment cycle for half the households targeted, and urgent funding is required for the remaining HHs and for three more payment cycles to ensure planned coverage.

Coordination
Under the auspices of the Eastern Mediterranean/MENA regional RCCE inter-agency working group co-led by UNICEF, WHO and IFRC, a sub-working group on data and community feedback reporting has been formed in September. The sub-working group will include as key members UNICEF, WHO, IFRC, Internews, Ground Truth Solutions and IOM, and will seek to accelerate the generation and use of data and evidence to inform RCCE efforts.

UNICEF additionally collaborated with WHO and other international agencies to develop and now officially launch on 7 September an online training course “Role of Primary Health Care in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic” which caters to primary health care workers to carry out healthcare services for all including vulnerable populations such as women, mothers and children. (https://covid.emro.who.int/).

Collaboration continued in September in UNICEF’s regional and MENA countries between WASH, Health & Nutrition, C4D, and humanitarian sections to support the education section on school reopening through providing IPC protocols, PPEs, training packages to teachers on the importance of hand hygiene and other measurements required to avoid spread of COVID-19 among students.

Coordination both at regional and national levels regarding continued learning continues to take place around the Global Framework for Reopening Schools. UNICEF’s regional office, as such, organized a joint session with UNICEF colleagues from Health and Education sections in the region in September around the most recent guidelines developed by UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO about safe operations in schools.

UNICEF has coordinated closely with other key actors in social protection from the UN (i.e. Egypt) and international financial institutions (i.e. World Bank in Iraq and Jordan) in its social protection responses across the region.

Advocacy
UNICEF – both the regional and country offices – continue to engage and work in close cooperation and coordination with governments, WHO, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centres for Disease Control, INGOs, local NGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies, World Bank and others to avoid overlaps and optimise complementarities.

External Media
MAIN COVID-19 PAGE
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
CAMPAIGN PAGES
#لا تنسوا الكفاح
#MaskUp
العودة إلى التعليم
Back to Learning
PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

UNICEF and partners support the subnational polio immunization campaign in rural Damascus

UNICEF to lead procurement and supply of COVID-19 vaccines in world’s largest and fastest ever operation of its kind

Return to learning a priority for children to catch-up on education in person or remotely in the Middle East and North Africa

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

Educate A Child and UNICEF help children in Hama catch up on learning through ‘Curriculum B’

UNICEF provides health and nutrition to children and mothers in rural Hama

Eyad’s return to education despite challenges

Supporting local economies, UNICEF procures a net worth of US$29.5 million from MENA local markets

UNICEF supports Grade 12 students to sit for national exams in Aleppo

UNICEF and partners support the subnational polio immunization campaign in rural Damascus

Funding Overview, Resource Mobilisation & Partnerships

UNICEF MENA’s latest appeal for US$356.9 million seeks to support government efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through the provision of critical supplies and adequate health care, as well as responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. As of 22 September, UNICEF has received $231 million – accounting for 64.7% of the target. However, the region still urgently needs an additional $125 million to support governments, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus. UNICEF MENA would like to express its sincere gratitude for the generous contributions from its public and private partners, such as the United States of America, the Government of Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the Government of Germany, the Government of Canada and the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). UNICEF MENA also accessed generous flexible contributions received centrally to address immediate funding gaps of critical interventions.

Funding Status*

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<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>$8,100,000</td>
<td>$21,865,129</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>$103,257,802</td>
<td>$61,642,999</td>
<td>$41,614,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENARO</td>
<td>$1,906,000</td>
<td>$1,619,811</td>
<td>$286,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$356,892,602</td>
<td>$231,369,138</td>
<td>$125,523,464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As defined in the Humanitarian Appeal of 12/05/2020 for a period of 9 months. Funds Available are as of 22/09/2020.
Funding available includes COVID-19 related top-ups to existing contributions, as well as re-programmed funding negotiated and approved by the donors for contributions originally issued for the other than COVID-19 purposes. Resources mobilized in excess of the immediate requirement are not reflected here and the funding gap is $0 and 0% respectively.


**Next SitRep: 31 October 2020**

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### Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Response Targets</th>
<th>2020 target*</th>
<th>Total results</th>
<th>UNICEF results</th>
<th>Results in the reporting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td>258,170,000</td>
<td>275,052,839</td>
<td>5,720,114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions</td>
<td>42,923,500</td>
<td>41,364,584</td>
<td>4,218,313</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms</td>
<td>2,375,000</td>
<td>867,855</td>
<td>194,460</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infection prevention control (IPC)/ WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>11,322,774</td>
<td>15,603,650</td>
<td>3,189,898</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>75,125</td>
<td>170,315</td>
<td>47,831</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</td>
<td>19,924</td>
<td>12,025</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of essential health and nutrition services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>17,150</td>
<td>8,448</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential new-born care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities</td>
<td>7,462,158</td>
<td>6,534,789</td>
<td>1,038,976</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 through national communication campaigns</td>
<td>4,465,670</td>
<td>2,256,159</td>
<td>157,857</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>665,400</td>
<td>230,504</td>
<td>36,665</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of education, child protection, social protection and social sector financing and gender-based violence services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td>7,264,557</td>
<td>4,961,316</td>
<td>970,850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td>31,766</td>
<td>13,126</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>19,062</td>
<td>13,101</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>442,153</td>
<td>349,167</td>
<td>35,121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors</td>
<td>3,434</td>
<td>4,769</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>306,650</td>
<td>1,247,404</td>
<td>1,120,422</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19</td>
<td>174,500</td>
<td>65,386</td>
<td>316</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support</td>
<td>20,837,000</td>
<td>12,002,953</td>
<td>113,010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Targets are as of 24 September 2020.