Highlights

- As of 21 October, over 2.6 million registered cases of COVID-19 have been registered in the region, 414,173 of which are active, and 67,869 deaths in total have been reported.

- Across the region, collection and use of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) evidence and community feedback as well as decentralization of efforts are being stepped up. To date, 258,166,930 and 39,301,262 people have been reached and engaged respectively, while 1,011,314 individuals have provided feedback.

- UNICEF also reached 179,114 healthcare workers with personal protective equipment (PPEs), and 14,636 people have been trained in infection prevention control (IPC). In addition, 16,507,402 people have received critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies.

- UNICEF further ensured continuity of health & nutrition services for 7,388,647 women/children and trained 9,121 healthcare workers in managing COVID-19 cases. Moreover, 280,161 children received severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment while 2,503,237 caregivers have received messages on breastfeeding. While there has been recovery of routine immunization services in some countries, data is still limited. UNICEF continues to support outbreak response beyond COVID-19, namely in Yemen, to include circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus and measles, targeting 1,186,873 children.

- To date, UNICEF reached 5,558,081 children as part of continuous education and 28,048 schools have received support with safe school protocols.

- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) has reached 406,038 children, parents and primary caregivers while 13,301 individuals have been served with alternative care arrangements. Moreover, 1,269,993 children and adults have been given access to safe protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) channel.

- To date, 12,500,917 households have benefited from new or additional social assistance measures, as part of UNICEF’s support to governments, while 70,980 households have received a humanitarian cash grant.

Summary of Programme Response Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Response Targets</th>
<th>Funding Status (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCCE: People Reached through Messaging</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH Supplies</td>
<td>146%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Essential Health Services</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/ Home-Based Learning</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Social Assistance Measures</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Gap $141.06 M (40%)

Funding Received $219.00 M (60%)
**Situation Overview**

As of 22 October 2020, the MENA region registered more than 2.6 million new cases in total and 67,869 deaths since the epidemic started; 414,173 cases remain active, including 158,367 new ones reported last week.

Over the past four weeks, a sharp increase of new cases has been observed in 11 MENA countries while the majority of the remaining countries remain stable for the most part. That said, the impact in terms of deaths varies greatly from one country to another. In response to this new wave of cases and deaths, governments are trying to find a balance between strict restrictive measures to slow down transmission and continuity of services in public and private sectors.

Iran is now again the country reporting the highest number of new cases (24 per cent of region), followed by Iraq (16 per cent) and Morocco (13.5 per cent). In four weeks, the number of new cases has nearly doubled. Nearly two thirds of MENA weekly deaths were reported in Iran (56 per cent) with a third wave of new cases more severe than previous ones (38,541 new cases and 2,241 deaths reported last week). Tehran is strongly affected by this new wave but adherence to coronavirus safety guidelines remains low (around 40 per cent).

Over the reporting period, the new infections diagnosed in Iraq have started to slowly decline from 30,000 to 25,000 weekly, with weekly deaths now in total below 400 individuals; such a slight decrease has not been witnessed since June of this year. Morocco continues to be the third MENA country with the highest number of new cases for the tenth consecutive week, and trends are still in the rise.

The situation has further deteriorated in Jordan and Tunisia where the numbers of COVID-19 infections significantly increased. In comparison to other countries in the region, the sharp rise in numbers was registered when most of the MENA countries witnessed flattened or decreasing waves, namely in September. Over a period of four weeks, new cases increased by one and half times and deaths by four times in Tunisia, currently stabilizing at approximately 8,000 new cases and 200 deaths per week. The situation in Jordan is of concern, since new weekly cases have multiplied by four and deaths by 16 times compared with initial nominal COVID-19 reported cases. Jordan is now the fourth most affected country in the region. The health system has nearly reached its limit, leading the government to implement curfews and strict lockdown measures on Fridays.

Other countries including Syria and Libya, continue to record an increase in new cases and deaths during the reporting period on top of an already dire humanitarian situation.

**Weekly new cases in the MENA region – 9 March to 25 October**

![Weekly new cases in the MENA region – 9 March to 25 October](image-url)
Socio-Economic Impact and Humanitarian Needs

In October, both the World Bank and the IMF revised downwards GDP growth forecasts for the region, reflecting an increasingly pessimistic outlook, as a result of COVID-19. The World Bank projected an economic contraction by 5.2 per cent in 2020, with the deepest impacts on Lebanon (-19 per cent), Iraq, Oman and Tunisia (-9 per cent) and the State of Palestine (-8 per cent).

The pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities within countries, negatively affecting household livelihoods and incomes. This is likely to have a notable impact on children’s nutrition in subsequent months.

The results of phone surveys conducted in recent months confirm that households had to reduce their expenditure on food, due to the epidemic. In Morocco, for example, a survey conducted by the High Commission on planning found that three households out of the 10, cut their expenditure on fruit and vegetables, and more than one household out of four has been forced to cut expenditure on red meat and fish. A survey conducted by UNICEF in Egypt this August, found that 19 per cent of respondents had to ration the consumption of food, by reducing the frequency of meals or quantity of food per meal, while 11 per cent of respondents reported they had to compromise in the quality of food consumed by choosing inferior quality products.

The economic crisis and measures adopted by countries to contain the spread of COVID-19 continue to affect demand, supply and access to health services. According to results of the UNICEF- tracking questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19, nine countries in Quarter3 2020 noted data subjects experiencing medium to high levels of disruption in primary health care services (out of 13, which responded to the questionnaire), with low and middle-income countries mostly affected. In most MENA countries, the demand for services is negatively affected by fear of contagion in health facilities and by limitation in transportation, and efforts related to IPC measures. Strengthening engagement, awareness and behavioral change strategies are among actions governments are putting in place to address major these barriers.

Results from Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) studies – including those on preventive behaviour – suggest the need for deeper analysis to inform a strategic shift to localized and nuanced messaging and actions among most at risk. These priorities necessitate streamlined engagement of influential groups (i.e. adolescents, women groups, tribal and faith leaders). Improved access, coverage and utility of digital engagement platforms are also essential. Qualitative data collection further needs to be supported to equip actors with a better understanding of their communities.

UNICEF in the region remains dedicated to efforts in maintaining the provision of essential health and nutrition services for all, including the most vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas. As such, health care workers continue to implement and perform IPC measures, including outreach services as was the case during the reporting period in (a) close to 50,000 children being treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), (b) Syria, with 90,000 children under the age of 5 being screened for malnutrition, of which over 50,000 were provided with micronutrients and (c) Yemen, where 93 oxygen accelerators were distributed and 300 more ordered.

In October, education is continuing in most countries, face-to-face (Yemen), fully on-line (Jordan, UAE) or through a hybrid approach (Egypt). In Libya, schools are open for last year exams and the next school year will only start in December. In other countries, for example Lebanon and Sudan, the school opening date remains pending. While most countries, have put in place measures on basic safe operations, the main concern is with learning and academic outcomes. Measures put in place to support remote learning have been only partially effective and, as the COVID-19 requires continued learning during school year 2020/2021 and requires a coordinated, intersectoral approach which address several child and child-related needs such as: (a) community anxiety given that the numbers of COVID-19 cases remain on the rise, (b) supporting teachers and parents to facilitate learning in this challenging context, and (c) protecting education budgets to ensure that the burden of back to learning does not fall on families, already heavily affected by the economic impact of the pandemic.

1 World Bank (2020) MENA Economic Update - October 2020
2 www.hcp.ma
COVID-19 continues to influence the accessibility and availability of essential services for girls and women the region during the reporting period. With regards to the health sector, the majority of MENA countries reported disruption of services within primary health centres and outreach services. Specifically, seven countries reported a drop in family planning services, while seven others reported a drop in nutrition services for pregnant and lactating mothers. Nine countries, including Sudan, Morocco, the State Palestine and Syria for example, reported a drop in maternal health services of more than a 24 per cent.

Within the education sector, more than ten countries reported absenteeism of students and teachers including in countries with pre-COVID-19 gender disparity, such as Sudan, Djibouti, Iraq and Yemen. This is of particular concern as there are global confirmations which show a trend for girls bearing a heavier price of children not going back to school. Even more alarming and a cause of future focus is to improve access to equipment/connectivity for potential in hard to reach locations, or to the very destitute, inclusive of physical packages for home-based learning for children in remote areas.

Nine countries in the region reported closure of child protection services, while another nine countries reported interruption of community engagement activities, ten countries reported a drop in home visits by social service and justice workers and seven countries reported a drop in access to available women and girls’ friendly spaces. With the tangible evidence from the region indicating increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV) due to COVID-19 lockdown measures, mitigating such risks with disrupted services is at stake and this was observed during the report period.

Socio-economic challenges continue across the region. According to the IMF’s MENA regional outlook for October 2020, oil-exporting countries (Libya, Yemen, Algeria, Oman, Iran, Iraq) are hit hardest, caused by a double setback of the pandemic and the resulting sharp decline in oil demand and prices. The decline of trade and tourism has seen a decline in remittances; this has a major impact on households in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. Similarly, UNICEF estimates (for nine countries in MENA) that the short-term socio-economic impact of COVID-19 could result in an additional 12.2 million children falling into multi-dimensional child poverty, bringing the total number of children living in poverty to 60 million.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

Cumulatively, almost 250 million and close to 40 million people have been reached and engaged respectively as part of RCEE, while more than 1 million individuals have provided feedback to date. Hand hygiene messages were promoted during Global Hand Washing day the week of 15 October. In Syria, activities included radio and social media campaigns, awareness sessions and youth initiatives, and engagement of more than 300 volunteers to reach 25,000 children and their parents. Moreover, RCCE-focused or integrated trainings on COVID-19 prevention and secondary impacts are ongoing. C4D progress data mapping was also completed: to date, close to 80 per cent of countries conducted RCCE trainings on continuity of education services topics, and more than 50 per cent of countries completed RCCE trainings around continuity of health services themes. For example, in Iraq, UNICEF supported the training of an estimated 750 health staff on RCCE in October. RCCE support to countries’ preparedness for the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine has also started. UNICEF released results from a recent literature analysis study. It shows variations in intentions to take the vaccines, for a variable of reasons, as soon as they are available: Egypt (73 per cent), U.A.E. (46 per cent), Saudi Arabia (41 per cent), Jordan (37 per cent), Lebanon (31 per cent), and Morocco (21 per cent).

Several UNICEF country offices continue to offer IPC training to health care workers, including those working on the frontlines, and provide sufficient quantity and appropriate PPEs. To reach children and mothers, even those self-isolating to prevent transmission, UNICEF has been supporting tele-counselling on breastfeeding for pregnant and lactating women. UNICEF is providing equipment to maintain critical like the disposable mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes and complementary feeding bowls. Disposal MUAC tapes help prevent vulnerable children and their families from being exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19, while being screened for malnutrition, while complementary feeding bowls support caregivers to continue good nutrition practices at home.  To date, over 9,000 healthcare providers have been trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases and almost 7.5 million children and women have received essential healthcare. In addition, over 2.5 million caregivers of children (0-23 months of age) have been reached with messages to protect breastfeeding, while over 280,000 children under the age of five have been admitted for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment.

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5 [https://www.unicef.org/innovation/complementary-feeding-bowl](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/complementary-feeding-bowl)
The overall WASH response for local authorities and partners continues to be grounded in supporting health centres and schools. Integration with other sectors has allowed for better access of populations most-at-risk, including the displaced or people with disabilities and refugees via house-to-house visits, for the distribution of hygiene and/or cleaning kits in the form of PPE. To date, UNICEF reached over 16.5 million individuals with critical WASH supplies including hygiene kits, soap and hand sanitizers. Almost 180,000 health workers have received PPEs (including gloves and masks) and over 14,500 health workers and professionals received IPC training.

By the end of October, UNICEF supported remote learning in all MENA countries, reaching nearly 6 million children. In addition, UNICEF continued the support of safe operations, reaching 18,000 schools during the reporting period. Work continues in the Gulf countries, Sudan, Egypt and Algeria to roll-out the Teacher Preparedness Training Package, developed by UNICEF’s MENA Regional Office. As part of adjusting to the new normal, UNICEF is supporting governments to reimagine education: putting systems in place that are resilient to shock and crisis and flexible in reaching all children and equipping them with necessary skills to continue their learning, prepare for their transition to work and engage in active citizenship.

UNICEF continues to advocate and integrate gender in the current response measures, as of end of October, around $66 million allocations for COVID-19 activities were tagged to gender in the region, with more than two thirds allocated for mainstreaming gender in WASH and social protection responses benefiting the most disadvantaged women and children.

Throughout October 2020, notable improvements have been observed in engaging national civil society organizations (CSOs) representing vulnerable groups beyond the protection sector, for example, the engagement of CSOs dedicated to representing adolescent girls and women’s groups within the education sector.

In October, UNICEF continued to share evidence-based data through webinars, reports and meetings to inform policy for governments and their partners, along with support to governments’ social protection response to COVID-19 on operational aspects such as data management systems), inclusive reach of social assistance and design of programmes. In addition, UNICEF provided technical assistance on public financing, and policy support. UNICEF continued to provide direct humanitarian cash support to vulnerable groups currently not included in government social protection schemes in Syria, Morocco and Jordan.

**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)

Through UNICEF Algeria social media channels Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, have reached almost 2 million individuals by sharing key messages and content regarding: (a) teacher preparedness training package, (b) MENA #MaskUp campaign with the participation of Algerian influencers, (c) staying safe outside during COVID-19, (d) mental health advice during this pandemic and (e) how parents can support their child through COVID-19 related losses, during the reporting period.

Supporting access to education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education in elaborating the national awareness and information campaign of Safe Back to School. UNICEF developed a video to broadcast on national TV channels and distributed 30,000 printed communication materials to all schools nationwide, illustrating the key hygiene and physical distance measures.

UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education to enhance the capacities of all teachers and school counsellors by providing trainings and pedagogical resources to be available on a specific electronic platform. These will give teachers and school counsellors the right knowledge and tools to take care of children and adolescents upon their return to school for a better inclusion, participation and wellbeing, which will reduce their mental health issues and improve their learning experience.
Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
During October 2020, 44,320 people were reached with WASH supplies and services. This included the camps. IPC trainings for health professionals in refugee camps is planned, but not yet implemented due to suspension of transport and is intended for implementation once conditions will be favorable.

Social protection & social sector financing
In October, at the request of the Government of Algeria, UN agencies continued to prepare the UN socio-economic response to the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF is participating in the drafting of the document by strengthening the social protection component and including children’s priority needs.

Djibouti
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)
The RCCE campaign was launched by the Ministry of Education with UNICEF’s support to the return to school in the COVID-19 context

A telethon mobilizing various high-level government officials, influencers, medical staff, parliamentarians, youth, UNICEF and WHO representatives contributed to increasing public awareness on the COVID-19 prevention measures.

UNICEF supported the C4D polio campaign plan integrating prevention messages linked to COVID-19 and continuity of services.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to recruit a national consultant to finalize a survey on perceptions and attitudes linked to COVID-19. In addition, UNICEF integrated in the questionnaire perceptions on the new COVID vaccines.

Maternal and child health communication material adapted to current context of COVID-19.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
An additional 386 migrants accessed WASH services in the quarantine camp in Ali Sabieh through the partnership of a local NGO (CRD: Crois Rouge Djiboutian) contributing to improve the access to WASH services to migrants transiting through the camp.

UNICEF has led a technical mission to conduct the evaluation of WASH response for refugees or displaced persons.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
UNICEF continues to support the continuity of health and nutrition services throughout the ongoing COVID-19 context, including the intensification of field monitoring and supervision of activities.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services
Effective national back-to-school in a safer environment – UNICEF has mobilized all key stakeholders in the Education sector to accompany the Ministry of Education in securing the return to school in the country.

Continued partnership with CARITAS to keep providing alternative care to vulnerable children (children living on the street, children on the move, unaccompanied and/or separated children) through food assistance, hygiene kits, health care and family reunification services.

A continued and extended partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to support child refugees with psychosocial as well as helping family placement for unaccompanied and/or separated children: 2,874 children were reached in the Child Friendly Space (including 563 girls), 12 children with disabilities benefitted from school transportation while 57 children were reached through home visits. A total of 216 children (118 girls and 98 boys) and 13 foster parents benefitted from community-based mental health and psychosocial support.

Social policy and social sector financing
UNICEF contributed financial assistance for 3,917 vulnerable families from the 65,000 recipients of the Ministry of Social Affairs COVID-19 response programme; of these households 1094 are headed by women and 2350 include children.
UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Social Affair to better organise the data collection and reporting so 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 2 October, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) launched the ‘Safe Re-opening of Schools’ campaign, jointly with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) in partnership with UNICEF and WHO. The campaign has four public service announcements (PSA) that have been posted on UNICEF Egypt’s digital platforms, reaching 4.6 million users and engaging with more than 176 thousand users.

UNICEF provided technical and financial contribution to the planned MoETE ‘Continuity of Learning’ campaign, which will be launched towards the end of October on the ministry’s digital platforms. The campaign aims to raise awareness on the continuity of education by announcing a new education hub and other assets to ease children’s access to learning tools.

UNICEF printed an additional 13,976 copies of the Home Isolation & Nutrition booklet and shared with MoHP to be disseminated to the most vulnerable.

UNICEF supported the MoHP in reaching additional 215,496 families with interactive consulting and guidance services on health and nutrition best practices for pregnant and lactating mothers within the COVID-19 context with an average rate of post engagement of 77,628 using the MoHP 1000 Days Facebook page.

In partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood to engage with girls and boys on positive gender roles and maintaining healthy practices during COVID-19, a total of 1,380,000 girls and boys were organically reached and 36,000 engaged (71 per cent female) through the National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative's Facebook Page (Dawwie).

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) in interacting with most vulnerable families on positive parenting during COVID-19 using RapidPro, reaching additional 1,500 households.

UNICEF trained 50 social workers from MoSS on positive parenting during COVID-19 and 90 volunteers from ‘The Egyptian Youth Initiative’, who support peers and parents during COVID-19. They reached additional 75,020 youth (48 per cent female) and engaged additional 6,848 (70 per cent female) through the Egyptian Youth Initiative Facebook Page. Furthermore, the step-down training resulted in additional 2,200 youth volunteers trained within the reporting period.

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**

UNICEF and partners reached a total of 7,946 children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support during the reporting period: 7,422 through emergency programmes (5,196 Egyptians and 2,226 from refugee communities), 242 through MoSS case management units, and 282 through partnering NGOs providing specialized services to Egyptian children. In addition, over 3,200 calls to families of the government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfers programme (TKP) beneficiaries were reached out to with COVID-19-related messaging and stress management activities through MoSS case management units.

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

UNICEF procured and delivered additional PPEs: 6,318 gloves, 14,000 gowns, 40,000 face shields. Total of 1,213 individuals were trained on IPC this month.

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6 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 campaigns, the total number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services is 63,239,368 and total number of people engaged through RCCE actions is 3,095,862.

7 The booklet was a direct request from MoHP, who asked for 500,000 copies, to which UNICEF contributed with 313,976 and the rest of the UN Agencies within the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), will contribute with the rest.

8 Cumulative till date: 92,707

9 Cumulative till date: 10,493

10 Cumulative till date: 3,460

11 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, MHPSS services were provided to a cumulative of 33,138 (29,436 through emergency programmes including 21,417 Egyptians and 8,019 persons on the move, 1,218 through MoSS case management units, and 2,484 through other partnering NGOs). Note: data for MoSS case management units is only until end of July 2020 and is missing data from some governorates.
Continuity of health care services for women and children
UNICEF facilitated and supported additional online and face-to-face training for 1,213 health professionals, including training of 173 Community Health Workers from Syrian communities on infection prevention and control of COVID-19, additional 240 health staff were trained on Prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), 800 health professionals were trained in primary health care centers on safe vaccination during COVID-19. UNICEF organized 71 online session for health managers, supervisors and health service providers, reaching over 4,600 health professionals.

An estimated 69,871 caregivers of children (aged 0-23-months) received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages through social media and community platforms. An estimated 210,901 women and children received essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities (144,199 children benefited from immunization and growth monitoring, while 24,137 women benefitted from post-natal services and 42,595 from antenatal care).

Social protection and social sector financing
In October, the second round of UNICEF’s phone survey results became available. The survey aims to understand the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on households with a specific focus on children. The telephone interviews covered a sample of 1,500 respondents. Results show that the lockdown had some effect on access to regular medication / medical consultations with 1 in 5 reporting ‘difficulty in seeking medical consultation’, though it had a limited effect in accessing regular medication. A sizeable proportion of households (25 per cent) reported a member of the family experiencing higher levels of stress since the lockdown started. Also, in every 1 in 4 households, children showed increase in disruption in sleeping pattern or excessive crying when compared to before lockdown conditions. COVID-19 conditions of stress and anxiety has also resulted in increased manifestation of use of disciplinary practices by parents/caregivers towards children.

The government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfer programme (TKP) continues to include additional beneficiaries to the programme with 130,673 families added in October reaching nearly 3.5 million families.

MoSS, with the technical support of UNICEF provided through the secondment of the senior advisor, continues its support to the non-contributory social protection policy coordination for COVID-19 responses. Within the efforts to construct the database of casual workers, MoSS has been working closely with Ministry of Planning and CSOs to review the definition of casual workers in social insurance and labor laws and develop an awareness raising plan for the casual workers. The ministry has also begun the disbursement of 500 EGP monthly aid for four months to 12,424 tour guides who have been negatively impacted as a result of COVID-19 job losses and is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank and National Telecom Regulatory Authority for a pension e-wallet disbursement.

UNICEF Egypt and J-PAL MENA launched the third webinar of the Global Evidence for Egypt series on 12 October, which focused on what global evidence tells us about social assistance that responds to covariate shocks. The series fosters a conversation between Egypt’s policy priorities and the relevant rigorous global evidence, ultimately providing insights into how Egypt can design shock responsive social protection programmes.

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 Qatar participated in UNESCO’s sub-regional launch of the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report, in cooperation with the Qatar National Commission for UNESCO, and under the patronage of His Excellency, Dr Mohammed Abdul Wahed Ali Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education. Under the theme, “Inclusion and Education: All means all”, the event convened a range of stakeholders from Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar, including government, NGOs and civil society actors, practitioners and academics. The objective was to increase awareness of the multifaceted nature of ‘inclusive education’, stimulate policy dialogue, identify gaps and explore cross-sectoral partnerships during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF’s intervention drew attention to the recently developed Teacher Preparedness and Training Package and its emphasis on the importance of prioritizing children’s safety and psychosocial well-being in schools.

12 Cumulative till date: 413,954 caregivers
13 Since the start of the COVID-19-19, a total number of 440,421 families have been included in the programme to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19-19, with reassurance of continued financial support to all beneficiaries.
UNICEF GAO in Kuwait in partnership with Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences Academy (KFAS), Enara, Kuwaiti Institute for Digital Innovation, supported the creation of two online platforms – one for teachers and another for parents – to share tips for online education during COVID-19 times, advice on how to motivate and keep children safe while using digital technology for learning, post lesson plans, educational materials, pedagogical advice, suggestions for adaptations and accommodations in instructional delivery during online and distance learning. These two platforms, also supported by the British Council and Quality Matters (USA-based Education Institute) will reach over 25,000 K-12 teachers in Kuwait, and (potentially) hundreds of thousands of parents.

Kuwait started the official school year on 4 October through online and distance learning. Schools will remain closed during the fall semester.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF GAO in UAE in collaboration with WHO, the Resident Coordinator’s Office, and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) organized a webinar to mark World Mental Health Day, drawing attention to the importance of the issue especially during times of crisis. Policy and decision makers from health, education, and social authorities in U.A.E., NGOs, and UN attended the webinar which reviewed the importance of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in response to COVID-19, considered entry points for long term investment in mental health, and explored possibilities of integrating mental health and psychosocial wellbeing programmes into sectoral interventions by different ministries. The linkage between child protection and psychosocial wellbeing was highlighted, noting child protection and psychosocial wellbeing are contingent on a functioning and effective social work force. At the event, the SCMC announced a global event in 2021 on the topic to draw further attention to the issue.

UNICEF GAO in KSA, with technical support from UNICEF’s Office of Research held a joint webinar with the Family Affairs Council and the National Family Safety programme on the safety of children online. The session reviewed the latest available evidence, talked about concepts around balanced screen time, good practice in policy and practice as well as tips for parents and families. This latest effort is part of an ongoing area of technical support and partnership with the national partners. Previously, UNICEF GAO assisted national stakeholders, including line ministries with a strategic framework for child safety online and will soon support the same stakeholders in adapting the agreed approaches during the pandemic and other emergencies.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

UNICEF GAO mobilized a total of close to $11 million to support UNICEF’s COVID-19 global programmes and work. The latest contribution, from the Qatar Charity of One million dollars to support children in Syria is drawn from the agreement signed between the two parties aimed at improving COVID-19 preparedness and response by reaching critical supplies to 100 priority health centers (including quarantine facilities) in the country. It also includes training of health staff on infection prevention and control (IPC) and providing WASH supplies to support IPC measures. This agreement is also in line with Qatar Charity’s Coronavirus Prevention and Response Plan to support and scale up vulnerable countries’ preparedness and response efforts

Iran
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continued advocacy for the establishment of a national RCCE committee. A concept note and action plan were developed and agreed upon with the Ministry of Health (MoH).

In partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and MoH, UNICEF supported a nationwide RCCE campaign to share COVID-19 prevention messages with school-aged children through online platforms and the national TV.

On the occasion of Children’s Day, the Ministry of Interior and UNICEF announced the winners of the joint COVID-19 Art Competition for children, entitled “We Are All Champions”. A total of 4,272 children (girls and boys aged three to nine) from different provinces, including the less privileged ones, participated in this campaign to express their feelings and how they are responding to COVID-19 through art. The campaign was organised as part of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative. UNICEF and the Ministry of Energy launched a nationwide painting competition for children and adolescents on water usage and sustainable development, including the topic of water usage during COVID-19.

28 online communication materials and posts were developed and disseminated through UNICEF’s website, YouTube, Aparat (the Iranian YouTube), Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Iran CO Goodwill Ambassador’s account, and UNICEF-supported Adolescent Wellbeing Clubs.
During the reporting period, UNICEF reached a total of 6.7 million (38 per cent female), of which included approximately 4 million 3,798,959 engaged people through UNICEF-supported channels of communication. UNICEF’s Instagram followers reached 310,000; a 6.63 increase compared to the previous month.

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**

Following the finalization of the service package on parenting during COVID-19, 20 State Welfare Organization (SWO) social workers participated in four remote training sessions. The trained social workers are expected to provide support to children without caregivers in family-based foster care settings.

UNICEF provided 126 Psychosocial Support (PSS) counsellors in Adolescent Wellbeing Centers (AWBCs), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), SWO and Prisons Organization with eight hours of training on remote stepped psychosocial care and support (ReSPCT tele-counselling), with a view to providing PSS to adolescents and youth in AWBCs, MOYS and SWO centers, 1,108 children in juvenile correctional centers, and 197 incarcerated mothers in women’s prisons in 31 provinces.

62 trained social workers and mental health experts of the Prisons Organization provided PSS services to 1,108 children in JCRCs and 197 incarcerated mothers in women’s prisons in 31 provinces.

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

UNICEF delivered hygiene items including 30,000 hand sanitizers, 12,000 sanitizing gels, 30,000 liquid hand soaps, 11,988 sanitary pads, 33,000 packages of detergent powder, 33,000 dishwashing liquids, and 300,000 face masks to the Ministry of Interior during the month of October 2020. This was part of the joint cooperation under the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative to support 30,000 vulnerable children in over 30 cities of six less-developed provinces.

In response to MOH’s request to enhance testing capacities, UNICEF procured 182,592 test kits from offshore sources. The kits have arrived in the country and are awaiting customs clearance.

UNICEF supported the procurement and distribution of IPC/PPE supplies for 1,108 children in detention, 197 incarcerated mothers, 11,556 children in alternative care and 4,044 children with disabilities.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

UNICEF developed two brochures for parents on children’s healthy eating. The brochures will be disseminated through different platforms such as the Primary Health Care (PHC) system. A promotional video on breastfeeding during the COVID-19 outbreak was produced in partnership with Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME). In another initiative, ICO procured telephone lines for breastfeeding tele-counselling. ICO, together with UNICEF MENARO, has collaborated with MOHME to conduct a webinar on Maternal and New-born care to maintain family-centred care in the context of COVID-19. More than 300 for the health care workers have participated the webinar.

**Social protection and social sector financing**

UNICEF continued to work closely with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare to develop the process of conditional cash transfers for primary school age children that dropped out of school due to lack of access to the online learning platforms. The proposal is finalized, and the consultant will provide the first phase of report by mid-November. This report will provide the required evidence for the CCT programme.

UNICEF participated in a technical meeting with the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) and UNFPA to review and examine work on analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the population. In partnership with SCI, UNICEF completed a feasibility study on available indicators and data on child development. This study reflects on the data gaps and indicators required to monitor the status of children for better planning during and post the COVID-19 outbreak. As the next step, UNICEF will work with SCI for putting together a plan for collecting data for the missing indicators.

**Iraq**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

UNICEF continued to support the United Nations national risk communication and community engagement working group, in finalising the RCCE strategy and the workplan, with the support and coordination of various UN agencies (Inc. WHO, WFP, IOM, UNFPA and UNDP) and the MoH. There are ongoing discussions with the World Bank on aligning the Bank’s COVID-19 advocacy plans with UNICEF-led UN-wide RCCE strategy and workplan.
UNICEF used its digital platforms to communicate information on mental health and the need to protect and empower girls, particularly on the occasions of Day of the Girl Child and of Mental Health Day.

To-date, 39,236 young people (1,855 offline and 37,381 online) have led online and offline awareness raising of COVID-19 among their peers, families, and communities through ADAP-supported Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and Directorates of Youth in north, centre and south. Offline engagement includes young people who designed and led social mobilization efforts on COVID-19 prevention and response across Iraq. Online engagement includes young girls and boys who engaged digitally through the U-Report COVID-19 chatbot utilized to reduce misinformation, provide vital information around the symptoms, transmission, and prevention of COVID-19, WhatsApp groups, Facebook messenger and Voices of Youth.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
A total of 27,034 individuals were reached by child protection services during this reporting period. This includes 12,781 individuals (33 per cent girls, 33 per cent boys, 19 per cent women) received face-to-face and remote Psychosocial Support (PSS). Additional 13,194 (38 per cent girls, 36 per cent boys, 13 per cent women) were reached with awareness on prevention of violence against children and COVID-19 messages. A total of 1,059 children (58 per cent girls) also received case management services.

Children released from detention: UNICEF continued to undertake awareness and advocacy for the release of children from detention. A total of 73 children (all boys) were released from prison facilities across UNICEF areas of work in Iraq. This brings the total to 666 (9 per cent girls) of children released since the start of COVID-19 pandemic in Iraq. UNICEF, through implementing partner also provided PSS and case management services for 38 juveniles remaining in detention.

Gender based violence services: UNICEF through implementing partners provided case management services to 394 beneficiaries (22 per cent girls, 9 per cent boys, 65 per cent women) through Gender Based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster approved remote service modalities, in-person as well as home visits where applicable. In addition, 723 individuals (30 per cent girl and 69 per cent women) received individual or group psychosocial services; while 2,697 individuals (31 per cent girls, 38 per cent women, 11 per cent boys) were reached with community trainings and awareness-raising sessions, promoting GBV prevention and safer environment for women and girls. 50 (56 per cent women) GBV service providers were trained on GBV risk mitigation and response services and 222 adolescent girls completed the minimum eight sessions of Adolescent Girls (AG) toolkit.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
A total of 160 tons of chlorine gas cylinders and 200 tons of alum sulphate were delivered to support continuity of safe water delivery in Baghdad city and benefitting 8 million people.

PPE for 490 municipal garbage workers delivered to minimize their exposure to COVID-19 transmission. 500 municipal workers received IPC training.

A total of 18,000 locally produced hygiene sanitizers were delivered to kindergartens and municipal directorates in Baghdad benefitting an estimated 18,000 individuals.

COVID-19 prevention messages continued to be mainstreamed into all Child Protection interventions. UNICEF’s implementing partners have reached 4,931 (28 per cent girls, 25 per cent boys, 21 per cent women) with COVID-19 prevention messages integrated with child protection and 4,200 leaflets and 300 posters were distributed. Furthermore, an estimated 700,000 radio listeners were reached with MRE messages that run over the last two weeks.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
Cumulative total by mid-September of 36,058 children (6-59 months) screened with MUAC for growth in the Internal Displaced People IDPs/Refugees’ camps.

Cumulative total by mid-September of 473 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases identified in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps and referred for management to the NRCs.
Cumulative total by mid-September of 1,148 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases identified in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps and received proper management.

Cumulative total by mid-September of 16,334 pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from IYCF counselling in the IDPs/Refugees’ camps.

Cumulative total from May till mid-August of 251,345 infants (aged <12m) vaccinated against measles in 10 UNICEF-focus governorates.

Cumulative total by beginning September, a total of 102,154 women received from essential healthcare services 27,218 antenatal care (ANC) during 4 visits and 74,927 postnatal care (PNC) visits in the 10 UNICEF-focus governorates.

A total of 132 senior national personnel trained as a master trainer on IPC online over 4 days on IPC in early July. A total of 680 sub-national personnel at Directorate of Health and District level trained as trainers on IPC online in August and September.

A total of 28 Zoom licenses purchased for Directorate and District training; these can be used for possible follow up training on PHC in the context of COVID-19, to better ensure maintenance of essential services.

1,726 Health Care Workers HCWs trained through Face to Face training on IPC by the master trainers and the sub-national trainers. The training is ongoing, and the plan is to reach 30,000 health care workers (HCW) by end of November 2020.

UNICEF, in a collaboration with WHO and UNFPA, developed a national response plan to maintain equitable access to essential Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) care services in the context of COVID-19 Pandemic in Iraq. The Plan identified six main intervention areas as (a) adjust planning and coordination mechanisms to support timely action, (b) adapt/adopt policies, standards of procedures and protocols, (c) strengthen surveillance and monitoring of essential SRMNCAH services, (d) rapidly optimise health workforce capacity, (e) maintain the availability of essential medications, vaccines, equipment and supplies, and (f) strengthen communication strategies.

Social protection and social sector financing
October has seen significant work on upgrading the management information system (MIS) system of the social protection system in Kurdistan Region, which has included finalizing the structure of MIS and complete MIS offline by end of October. UNICEF support has been in the design of the MIS to be the foundation for child-sensitive social protection and providing financial and technical support for this upgrade (hardware, software and training). This work aims to help government efforts to implement social protection response to COVID-19 and provide the foundation for the reform of the social protection system.

Jordan
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
During the reporting period, with UNICEF’s support, the national COVID-19 campaign reached more than 3 million people through partners’ social media platforms, an estimated 7 million people through online portals in total, 1.3 million people through 4 radio stations, and 3 million people through social media influencers’ Instagram stories. The outdoor media campaign displayed key messages on billboards and bridges in the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba and other governorates, reaching more than 6 million people. Additionally, 5,233 printed packages were distributed to ministries and private sector locations.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs (MoAIA), with UNICEF’s technical support, reached more than 1.5 million individuals through their social media channels and direct in-person awareness activities, including engaging more than 200,000 users in online discussions and 700,000 individuals via Facebook videos aimed at raising awareness about key COVID-19 prevention measures.

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14 The national COVID-19 campaign is headed by the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce, whose members include the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health (MOH), UNICEF, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the Royal Health Awareness Society. The maximum number of people reached through the national COVID-19 campaign is estimated to be 7 million since March 2020.
In cooperation with partners, UNICEF disseminated COVID-19 risk mitigation and hygiene information through 230 WhatsApp messaging groups, reaching 6,207 individuals (at least 42 per cent female) in refugee camps and host communities.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
During the reporting period, a total of 4,184 children (56 per cent girls) and 2,021 adults (74 per cent female) received remote community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Makani centres; remote specialized case management services; and helpline support, implemented in partnership with the Jordan River Foundation.

UNICEF Jordan’s U-Report15 WhatsApp daily messages were sent to 1,318 families, providing parenting tips, family engagement ideas and information about psychosocial support, gender-based violence, and protection helplines.

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, averaging 60 litres per person per day, to over 113,000 refugees residing in Azraq, King Abdullah Park (KAP) and Za’atari camps to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 (through encouraging handwashing) and due to increased use as a result of high temperatures.

UNICEF, in coordination with partners, has continued the disinfection of all vehicles entering Azraq, KAP and Za’atari camps, with over 10,000 vehicles disinfected in the first two weeks of October.

In Za’atari camp, UNICEF completed a blanket distribution of cleaning kits, benefitting 71,192 individuals (49 per cent female).

In coordination with partners, UNICEF supported 3,404 individuals (58 per cent female) in Za’atari, Azraq and KAP camps in self-isolation in their shelters, as well as those in the transit area, with critical hygiene and sanitation supplies16 and additional quantities of water, as needed.

In response to the positive COVID-19 cases identified in Azraq camp, UNICEF installed 59 cubic meters (2m3) water tanks at 30 plots17 for 1,872 individuals under self-isolation (49 per cent female), for families to receive water to meet their daily needs and to protect other plot residents against possible infection.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (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 1,010 children under five (50 per cent female) were vaccinated according to MOH’s immunization schedule, and 128 women of reproductive age were vaccinated against tetanus, during the reporting period.

From mid-September to mid-October, UNICEF provided essential health and nutrition services in Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps, including new-born care, immunization, and treatment of childhood illnesses to 2,625 children (45 per cent girls) and one boy with severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF Jordan’s telehealth programme provided 1,041 youth (67 per cent female) with telemedical services in partnership with the online platform, Altibbi18. On World Mental Health Day on 10 October, a psychiatrist engaged through this partnership reached 592 viewers with a discussion on COVID-19 stressors, mental health concerns, and key coping strategies.

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15 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 engage in citizen-led development and create positive change.

16 During the reporting period, 646 cleaning kits, 54 hygiene kits, 304 bottles of hand sanitizers, 1,775 soap bars and 21 jerry cans have been distributed to children and their families in transit areas and self-isolation in their shelters.

17 A pot is a group of 12 shelters.

18 Altibbi is an online platform through which remote medical consultations can be provided. For more information, visit this link.
Social protection and social sector financing

UNICEF-supported cash transfers were successfully delivered to a total of 9,818 households (24 per cent female headed), including 29,060 children (49 per cent girls) since April 2020.

The Daily Wage Worker programme concluded in October. The programme, ran through the Jordan National Aid Fund with UNICEF’s technical support, covered over 240,000 workers affected by COVID-19 with cash assistance for 6 months. A total of 146,886 vulnerable households (including 64,534 female-headed households, 282,444 children, and 10,377 persons with disability) were covered by the programme.

Lebanon
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
UNICEF in support to Tripoli municipality and partners engaged with 15 local actors and 10 syndicates and representatives of shop owners, have launched a 7-day awareness campaign on Tuesday 6th in Tripoli, targeting the crowded areas of the markets to promote safe behaviors among general public to limit COVID-19 spread. More than 120 volunteers trained by Balamand University went shop to shop reaching out to more than 1300 shops and boutiques and distributed more than 30,000 masks, produced by Youth mobilized by Anera and RMF, and 7000 posters and flyers to the community. Complemented by messaging during the Muslim prayers on Friday 9th mobilized by the Dar Al Fatwa (highest Sunni religious authority).

UNICEF continues to promote health and safe behaviors for COVID-19 in key local authorities and public services in the North of the country and Akkar. With Balamand University’s support, the mapping of behaviors and practices in Tripoli Serail housing the Governorate and the key ministries offices is completed. Recommendations on needed measures and guidance are finalized aiming to reinforce the implementation of the key preventive measures inside the Serail (social distancing, wearing of masks, crowd management and hygiene practices). The report will be shared with the Governor of North for decision and the experience will be replicated in the Akkar office.

IPC materials and guidance to the team of cleaners in the district/casa offices in the North were completed with the contribution of the UNV’s team in the North targeting Becharre, Zgharta, Minieh and Donnieh. Remaining to cover areas including Batroun, Koura and Akkar.

UNICEF in partnership with Saida Municipality, Saida Governmental University Hospital and UK-EMT (Emergency Medical Team) held a Public Hearing at the Municipal Hall with more than 85 attendees from community mobilisers including a Parliament member, Head of Saida Government Hospital, LRC, Saida NGOs network, CBOs, health workers, a Representative of Saida Merchants Association, volunteer groups and security officials. The event emphasized the health effects of COVID-19, its socio-economic impacts and the necessary social behavioral and habitual change to combat the pandemic. A Q&A session entailed open questions from audience in the hall and Facebook followers to the panel. The attendees citing of at least one take home message reached 80 per cent.

UNICEF in partnership with the COVID-19 reference hospital in Lebanon, Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH), produced a press release and a 32 video-messages package with the Director of the hospital and the Corona team delivering awareness messages and promoting the protective measures. The press release was cleared by the RCCE External Communication taskforce as a joint press release and the video package was shared with all RCCE partners for dissemination. The press release was echoed by 39 media outlets, reaching an estimated audience of six million, and three videos reached 1.7 million people on UNICEF Lebanon Facebook page. The campaign will be implemented until the end of October.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
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)

19 The analysis provided an overview of Jordan’s social protection sector, recent policy updates, examined challenges and measures taken in the different pillars of the national social protection system: social assistance, social services, and social security, and concluded with lessons learned and policy recommendations for better shock-responsiveness and improved response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
activities, self-care, codes of conduct while providing remote learning, and positive behaviors 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. The sharp increase in positive cases has further exacerbated the needs of girls, boys and women, especially in relation to psychosocial support. Through the mid-year summary of child protection real time monitoring to be released in September and covering the first half of 2020, nearly 33 per cent of UNICEF and Inter-Agency Child Protection partners have reported that there has been a problem for children and their families to access existing child protection services, primarily due to reasons related to COVID-19 restrictions, including movement restrictions and fear of contamination. This is an improvement from the 87 per cent reported in the previous update from June 2020. The increase in the number of children and families that can now access child protection services can mainly be attributed to the shift to a remote modality to minimize the risk of infection. Revised modalities for the implementation of these activities, including revised guidelines and tools for case management, focused psychosocial support, safe space and community-based activities, had been introduced earlier this year, and UNICEF partners are catching up on the yearly targets, while ensuring that the activities reach those most in need.

UNICEF and Inter-Agency Child Protection partners report a decrease in the number of identified girls and boys in need of CP services compared to last year, despite the socio-economic crisis, political unrest, COVID-19 outbreak and the Beirut blast in August. This suggests that outreach and identification of cases has become more difficult due to COVID-19 limitations related to accessibility and children staying at home. UNICEF and sector partners are looking into remote modalities to address this problem.

The localized movement restrictions imposed by the government in the first two weeks of October has impacted the implementation of some activities. These include focused/non-focused/structured psychosocial support for women and girls including support groups; activities that are suspended in some areas, while also being implemented online in others. However, most activities are still being implemented using the revised online modality of implementation to ensure that girls, boys and women have access to needed services. Some face-to-face activities are also being implemented in the areas not affected by the new restrictions.

UNICEF’s Child Protection programme and the social work syndicate is providing support to children separated from their caregivers due to one or both caregivers becoming sick. Guidance and tools were developed at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis for such situations. UNICEF has also mobilized partners to provide psychosocial support to children and caregivers affected by COVID-19 in communities and isolation sites, and caretakers have been identified and put on standby to care for separated children.

UNICEF’s Child Protection programme is supporting families and children affected by COVID-19 in isolation centers. The support includes distribution of PSS kits and Laha kits, equipping the centers with a play space for children, conducting regular CP/GBV assessments to better understand the challenges facing children and women, and address their needs, while providing psychosocial support to children and their caregivers. The PSS kits include items which can support caregivers to engage with their children and initiate discussion and communication, as well as provides COVID-19 safety messages for the whole family. The Laha kits include necessities which women and girls require to maintain their hygiene. The kits include age, gender, and culturally appropriate items promoting mobility and safety of women and girls.

With the support of the Health programme, UNICEF’s Child Protection programme trained around 100 case management workers on the use of medical PPEs. Case management is a vital service for children affected by violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect requiring face-to-face follow up. UNICEF is ensuring that these teams are equipped to protect themselves while ensuring the continuity of the services they provide.
Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

UNICEF continued to provide an increased water supply of 60 liters per person per day to refugees in informal settlements and host communities. A total of 184,673 people has been reached with critical WASH supplies and services in the COVID-19 response since January.

UNICEF provided IPC/PPE supplies to medical staff, cleaners and patients in twelve isolation centers across Lebanon, namely Gobairy Isolation Center, Lebanese Canadian Hospital, Dmit Isolation Center, Wardaneye Isolation Center, Kayfoun Isolation Center, Tal Hayat Isolation Center, Maarad Isolation Center, Deir Elsalib, elderly center in Antelias, Alaziz and Ein Wzein Center, and Najdeh and Abbasiyeh Isolation Center. Additionally, UNICEF is providing collection and management services of wastewater, water, COVID-19 infectious solid waste cleaning and laundry in the isolation centers.

UNICEF provided 1,713 IPC kits, including 417 IPC kits last month, with contents to support up to five family members for two weeks during isolation. The kits include surface cleaning cloths, 1500 ml of hand sanitizer, digital thermometer, 500 ml of antiseptic spray, medical cotton balls, 10 soap bars, 5L detergent, 5L bleach, 50 masks, 50 gloves, reusable gowns, tissue paper, waste bin with bags and female sanitary pads, and flyers with key information on prevention. The kit allows for safe home isolation for 15 days for families sharing spaces with a home isolated COVID-19 positive individuals.

UNICEF provided 1451 household disinfection kits, including 62 household disinfection kits last month, 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 new-borns after being admitted to an isolation centre.

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. During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed 15,052 boxes of medical masks, 3,705 N95 masks, 8,749 boxes of rubber gloves, 458 infrared thermometers, 5,066 disposable gowns, 1,294 goggles, 3,088 4-liters bleach, 2,090 liquid soap and 21,778 bottles of hand sanitizers to 192 dispensaries, 62 PHCCs and 8 Qadaa offices.

On 14 October, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health, the second phase of the measles campaign was launched to cover Beirut, Bekaa, South, Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon.

Screened and tested 8,842 people, 3,794 in Akkar and 5,048 in Bekaa, including 337 children in Akkar and 888 in Bekaa, for COVID-19 prevention and home isolation guidance.

The children vaccination status was also checked, in Akkar, 167 children and in Bekaa 429 children were provided with the missing measles and polio containing vaccines.

A total of 390 general security officers at border crossing points, airport and port were trained on COVID-19 awareness and preventive behaviors. A total of 189 social workers, frontline health workers, disability focal points, child protection and gender-based violence case managers were trained on COVID-19 preventive behaviors, home isolation and rational and safe use of personal protective equipment. 8,000 fabric masks were distributed to repatriates.

During reporting period, UNICEF provided prenatal & breastfeeding support to 414 Lebanese & 1,282 non-Lebanese individuals. Additionally, a total of 320 Lebanese and 1,203 non-Lebanese were provided with improved access to maternal, child and adolescent health services.
Personal protective equipment including 72 protective coveralls, 12 boxes of surgical masks/50 per box, 12 boxes of gloves/100 per box, 72 face shields, 24 bottles of 700ml hand sanitizer and 12 4L jars of bleach were dispatched to 12 districts in Akkar to support burial of COVID-19 related deaths. Also 4 boxes of surgical masks, 10 boxes of gloves, 12 bottles of sanitizers, 100 medical gowns, 15 goggles, 2 thermometers and 1 jar of bleach were provided to medical municipality teams following up on home isolated cases in Halba municipality.

5,940 fabric masks were distributed to 2,970 girls and boys at risk of abuse or exploitation, girls and women at risk of or survivors of gender-based violence and 4,060 fabric masks were distributed to 2,030 female and male caregivers of low, medium and high-risk children.

Social protection and social sector financing
Approximately 1,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children with disabilities are being integrated into UNICEF; social assistance to support these households to address COVID-19 related risks and needs.

Following the resignation of the government, while a strategy document cannot currently be approved, UNICEF leads the blast response 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. Accordingly, a UN position paper on has been developed by the Social Protection Sector Lead Team – UNICEF and ILO – with technical support from the national institute Beyond Reform & Development.

Ahead of the international conference on the 3RF (Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction) plan, which is led by the World Bank, European Union and the UN, UNICEF and ILO led the development of the social protection sector plan under the “strengthening social cohesion and resilience” pillar. The work was done in close coordination with all relevant stakeholders including WB, EU, UN agencies, CSOs and sector experts. While the National Social Protection Strategy work has been paused until a new government is formed, the priorities, content and key messages developed under the Strategy were reflected and aligned with the 3RF sector plan which includes addressing the socio-economic impacts as a result of COVID-19.

Libya
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
Global Hand Washing Day was marked by implementing different activities including communicating mobile messages, provision of soap and hygiene materials at different locations in East, West and South Libya. The messages focused on hygiene practices and related measures to limit and control transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Around 500,000 people were reached with the mobile message on the importance of handwashing to save lives and protect against the pandemic through the use of different communication strategies.

In coordination with local authorities and the National Center of Disease, UNICEF worked on finalizing RCCE plans for the East, mainly in high-populated cities such as Benghazi (targeted beneficiaries: 700,000), Tobruk (targeted beneficiaries: 120,000) and Albayda (targeted beneficiaries: 380,000).

As part of the evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on UNICEF’s and partners’ implementation work in the South, a post implementation assessment was conducted in 14 municipalities. The evaluation report will be finalized by the end of the month.

A behavioural assessment on COVID-19 to help design an evidence-based Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategic plan is ongoing and expected to be completed by the last week of October 2020.

UNICEF, with child protection partners, produced a series of videos focusing on the ‘Psychological well-being role in combating widespread concern, fear and stress related to COVID-19’ reaching 68,839 social media users so far.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
During the reporting period, 2,844 individuals (941 girls and 737 boys, 869 women and 297 men) accessed safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF trained 842 UNICEF and partners personnel (277 men and 565 women) on gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
A total of 302 individuals (56 girls and 246 women) were provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support in the western part of Libya.

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

WASH facilities in five health facilities in the South (one in Ghat and Traghen respectively, and three in Obari) were rehabilitated benefiting around 25,000 persons. The clinics were handed over to Ministry of Health in their respective municipalities.

In West Libya, the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in four internally displaced persons camps (3 Tripoli and 1 Bin Walid) are currently ongoing, with 85 per cent of the rehabilitation work completed. Similarly, UNICEF is rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities in two health care centers in Khoms and Zbara, with a completion rate 50 per cent.

To support Ministry of Education and ensure safe return and opening of schools, UNICEF finalized contractual arrangements to undertake the initial disinfection to around 300 schools and 50 public and health facilities.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided hygiene and cleaning kits in Sidi As-Sayah IDP camp, Tripoli, benefiting 133 persons (20 boys, 30 girls, 40 men, 43 women). Furthermore, UNICEF distributed essential hygiene items and PPEs to 50 children in Benghazi orphanage (23 boys and 27 girls).

Continuity of health care services for women and children

Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE), coordination meeting held with MoH and NCDC for distribution of PPEs in 24 primary healthcare centers and immunization sites in 26 targeted municipalities the distribution will be completed by end October 2020. These PPE will ensure safety of health care providers for an estimated two months.

UNICEF coordinated a quick assessment of 200 health facilities with vaccination sites, the findings are being used for evidence-based advocacy with relevant ministries and authorities for uninterrupted supply of vaccines. The report highlighted the following result:

- BCG (Tuberculosis) vaccine stocks in all municipalities are scarce since March 2020.
- Hexavalent vaccine stocks are expected be out in first week of November 2020.
- All municipalities have reported to have OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) and Measles vaccines until end of December 2020.
- The vaccine stock/buffer is not available in the national and four regionals warehouses.

Morocco

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continued to roll out its digital initiative “Vivre en sécurité avec la COVID-19” aimed at strengthening compliance to prevention measures. Seizing the momentum of the “Back to learning/school” campaign, the initiative included a public advocacy component promoting the rights of every child to quality education and appealed to employers to implement family friendly policies.

These initiatives resulted in a total reach of 11,136,366 people including 11,021,082 on Facebook, 99,314 on Instagram and 15,970 on Twitter and a cumulated total of 62,488 engagements.

The reporting period has also been marked by the launch of a UNICEF-supported project: “Mamans face au COVID-19” targeting the most vulnerable single mothers and their families. To date, 25 single mothers have been mobilized and are being empowered to reach out to 500 households headed by single mothers with messaging on COVID-19 prevention and promoting the continuity of basic social services.

Awareness raising and community engagement activities conducted at community level in partnership with local partner NGOs reached a total of 7,935 most vulnerable population in various regions. Overall 30 people inclusive of above-mentioned single mothers have been mobilized to participate in COVID-19 engagement actions while 54 feedbacks from beneficiaries were registered and dealt with by partners.
Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
Community-based mental health and psychosocial support were provided to 278 migrant families (in Oujda, Berkane, Nador, Tangiers and Tetouan), 489 vulnerable children and primary caregivers and 167 children and youth with disabilities.

Humanitarian cash transfers were provided to 39 migrant households (in Oujda and Tangiers), 35 vulnerable households (in Casablanca) and 200 households caring for children with disabilities (in Oujda), while 1,000 food kits were provided to 43 street children and youths and 70 vulnerable children were supported to access distance learning or school.
51 UNICEF partners (from 30 CSO) were trained on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors.

A video on protection measures against COVID-19 was developed and 3 awareness raising workshops were organized for street children to provide them with appropriate messages on prevention.
24 children and youths were reintegrated back with their biological family and 18 placed in child protection centres and continue to be remotely monitored and supported by social workers.

Via its partnership with a university, UNICEF supported 197 children, 97 families and 54 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)
3.9 tons of PPEs were donated to the Ministry of Health and distribution is ongoing. The Ministry of Health is committed to ensure that distributions target Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, and Child Health (RMNCH) services health workers.

Continuity of health care services for women and children
A total of 200 nutritionists and healthcare workers, mostly working at PHC level, have completed a 2-week course on “Nutrition in the life course in the context of COVID-19”, delivered from 21 September to 16 October via the National Public Health School distance learning platform with support from UNICEF.

Social protection and social sector financing
UNICEF continues to work with the government to operationalize the post-COVID-19 royal directives to accelerate social protection reform starting with universal medical coverage and child benefits through specific measures in the 2021 finance law (2021 budget). The objective is to generalize medical coverage in 2021-2022 and to provide coverage for 7 million children (3 million families) with family allowances, thus bringing coverage to 100 per cent over the period 2021-2023.

An additional 338 households benefitted from humanitarian cash transfers in October a total of 1,314 since the start of the response.

Oman
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
UNICEF continued to support the inter-ministerial RCCE Committee with the implementation of a parenting communication strategy. The strategy seeks to address the secondary impacts of COVID-19 by providing parents with access to credible and important information. It reinforces and complements government messaging on COVID-19 prevention and containment measures, as well as messaging on overall health, including mental health and nutrition (including breastfeeding). The strategy targets the general public, families of children with disabilities, families of adolescents, and children up to the age of 18. Tailored messages have been crafted for children and adolescents; media personnel; health workers; educators; religious leaders; and community networks. The Committee continues to share content under the new hashtag – #ForOmansChildren – launched on 2 September. The Committee continued its work on drafting a broad Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategy which addresses violence against children, the inclusion of children with disabilities, and early child development as well as the impact COVID-19 has had in these three areas.

UNICEF continued to develop and disseminate messages for the public via its own social media channels and to amplify messages from the Government of Oman, and to address misinformation. UNICEF’s messages were also amplified via government and private sector channels, including radio and TV. UNICEF Oman has a reach of about 166,000 people through its social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn).
Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF continued to work with Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) 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. UNICEF provided an online training for social workers on how to conduct remote case management during COVID-19. The training session presented 10 main points of guidance on remote CMS, and the materials were shared subsequently with the participating social workers for their reference.

Social protection and social sector financing

Having completed the Economic Briefing for Social Sector Spending in Oman, UNICEF in Oman is progressing with the Fiscal Space Analysis (FSA). This combines various potential financing sources for the social sectors that include Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Islamic Finance, PPP/privatization and subsidy reforms. This work will provide an in-depth analysis of the implications associated with COVID-19 on the economy and social services. The analysis will also highlight potential funding streams that can be used to improved service delivery for children specially during the fiscal austerity measures resulting from the economic slowdown.

The State of Palestine

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

In partnership with UNRWA and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 5,000 brochures on physical distancing, hand washing, and safe back to work measures were distributed to health clinics and UNRWA food distribution centres in the Gaza Strip.

In partnership with Oxfam, a new video addressing stigma and rumours related to COVID-19 has been produced and launched on social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) reaching over 300,000 views.20

In partnership with local partners, online video competitions were launched on Facebook to encourage people to maintain physical distancing, hand washing and mask wearing.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

Through three partners, UNICEF reached a total of 8,802 individuals of which included 8,661 people in the Gaza Strip, comprising of 4,510 children, in addition to 141 individuals in the West Bank that included 111 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 reporting period, 76 people, including 17 children (5 girls and 12 boys) used the safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse that were strengthened by UNICEF. Additionally, 22 people including six children (two girls and four boys) were reported as having survived suicide attempts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 21.

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

UNICEF delivered a set of ICU equipment, including 38 ventilators (20 in the West Bank, 18 in the Gaza Strip), 37 emergency trolleys (19 in the West Bank, 18 in the Gaza Strip), 37 electrical ICU beds (19 in the West bank, 18 in the Gaza Strip), and 25 oxygen concentrators (10 in the West Bank, 15 in the Gaza Strip) to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the treatment of COVID-19 cases. This equipment will serve around 700 patients per month in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A total of 397 GeneXpert testing kits were delivered to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the Gaza Strip, which will allow for a total of 3,970 tests of suspected COVID-19 cases. However, the estimated need of testing kits until the end of the year is about 257,248 according to the MOH forecast of needs.

20 Following are the links to the videos posted on social media:
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1972710786196844
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=626020041378573
https://www.facebook.com/593049637398640/videos/1407446706127042
https://app.frame.io/reviews/c9ddb10c-bb1f-4989-bb99-7c8b4cd11ff2/a0957c9d-c180-4bb7-b39e-17d46726a497

21 Whilst the result is reported against the PSEA indicator, the reported calls were about physical or sexual violence that children experienced but which were not committed under the PSEA accountability (ie, alleged perpetrators were not humanitarians). Callers also report other child protection and gender-based violence concerns, as well as anxiety and psychological stress linked to COVID-19 pressures.
A total of 63,000 surgical gowns were delivered to the Ministry of Health (50,000 in the West Bank, 13,000 in the Gaza Strip) in addition to 25,000 boot covers for the West Bank as well as 13,000 coveralls and 13,000 face shields for the Gaza Strip. These items will benefit around 1,500 health employees.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

UNICEF continued to provide nutrition services focusing on high-risk children and women. During the reporting period, 14 children (seven girls and seven boys) with severe acute malnutrition benefited from nutrition services through a local partner.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF supported local partners to maintain the provision of essential maternal, neonatal, and child health services for high-risk pregnant and lactating women and young children through alternate modalities such as tele-counselling. For instance, 1,791 high-risk pregnant and lactating women as well as 608 children accessed essential health and nutrition care services. Furthermore, 442 caregivers received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). Finally, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure that immunization of young children remains uninterrupted.

In partnership with WFP, UNICEF joined the latest global nutrition innovation, a complementary feeding bowl with nutritional diversity messages included in the design to address food quality, and demarcations by age group within the bowl to address food quantity. This innovation aims to ensure good quality of nutrition counselling and healthy nutrition practices for children. The project will be tested in several geographic areas across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip focusing on the empowerment of most vulnerable families with young children and caregivers to continue the good feeding practices at home.

**Sudan**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

UNICEF, the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health and WHO conducted a training of community members on the production of Facemasks. 210 participants were trained.

World Relief, with support from UNICEF, implemented an activity titled ‘Organize and Engage coffee/tea/fruits and vegetable sellers to communicate COVID-19 prevention’, in which 538 tea sellers and 1,110 vendors were trained on COVID-19 prevention messages dissemination to the communities in which they are active. In addition, 14 influential community activists were trained on effectiveness of mass communication, community mobilization and use of social media as a tool for spreading awareness among communities.

Through funding from UNICEF, World Relief supported the development and production of an online game that promotes prevention against COVID-19. The game targets all segments of the community with a focus on youth and adolescents and revolves around providing key messages on COVID-19 prevention while the game is being played.

UNICEF also completed data collection through Interactive Voice Response (IVR) to gauge community perception and denial around COVID-19. The survey participants exceeded 17,000, out of which 7,000 completed the entire questionnaire. Service providers were requested to respond to a set of questions that addressed challenges faced by partners on implementation of COVID-19 activities, how these partners envision normalization of COVID-19 prevention measures, and what preparedness measures they have in place for floods.

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**

In collaboration with government and civil society partners, UNICEF has been able to achieve the followings: 77,558 people (35,826 girls, 33,399 boys, 3,941 men and 4,392 women) received PSS in homes and through remote support to date. This includes students sitting their Sudanese certificate exams. 11,588 separated and unaccompanied children (652 girls and 10,936 boys) Reunified with their families or placed in appropriate alternative family care to date.

1,167 children in contact with the law (42 girls and 1,125 boys) have been released from the Family and Child Protection Units (FCPU) in all the states of the country through strong advocacy with the FCPUs Administration in Khartoum and FCPUs in the states since our monitoring has begun.
762 gender-based violence survivors (221 girls, 137 boys, 260 women and 144 men) have received GBV prevention and response services including PSS, medical and legal services. 6,566 children (6010 boys, 556 girls) living and working on and off the streets received food and other basic services.

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

A total of 40,286 population in COVID-19 high risk sites were reached with WASH IPC supplies that combined with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion water supply and sanitation interventions as planned. The supported population were the visitors and staff of isolation/health centers, IDPs, rural/urban population and entry point arrivals. The below summary highlighting the support provided:

- Around 3,750 patients and medical staff (1,912 females and 1,838 males) in 5 health centers in Kassala were supported with water supply and handwashing facilities.
- Around 33,760 IDPs, rural/urban population and entry points arrivals (17,566 females and 16,194 males) in North, East and West 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 IPC supplies including, handwashing soaps, chlorine supplies and IEC materials.
- Around 2,750 emergency affected population (1,430 females and 1,320 males) in COVID-19 high risk areas in North Darfur State provided with rehabilitated water supply and emergency latrines.
- 125 (73 females and 52 males) environmental health workers and community leaders in Central Darfur and Blue Nile were trained on WASH IPC related COVID-19 prevention/response interventions.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

The integrated COVID-19 and flood response project was started in Aljazeera State. 284 risk communication and community engagement community volunteers were trained and as well on Infant and Young Child Feeding IYCF (mother-lead for 30 females), 180 community volunteers, refresh training for Severe Acute Malnutrition – Outpatient Therapeutic Program (SAM OTP) providers and training of trainers (ToT) for 34 community-based surveillance in three localities.

UNICEF has provided 4,038 healthcare facility staff and community health workers with PPE items, including 38,900 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 and 347 healthcare providers were trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases.

Essential health-care services continued, reaching 63,670 children and women, 7,004 women benefited from antenatal and postnatal care, 5,916 children benefited from essential new-born care, 41,895 benefited from immunization services and 8,856 children received treatment for childhood illnesses in UNICEF supported facilities.

Messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) reached 49,558 caregivers of children under 24 months within the context of COVID-19 and 18,514 children 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment during reporting period.

**Social protection and social sector financing**

On 17 October, UNICEF signed a Letter of Intent with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD) which affirmed the commitment of UNICEF and MoLSD to work together towards establishing a national maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) programme starting in Kassala and Red Sea. The programme aims to support pregnant women and children in the first 1,000 days through enhanced social protection delivery enabling them to better cope with the impact of the ongoing economic crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme will also provide pregnant women and mothers with children under two years of age with bi-monthly cash payments along with awareness, knowledge, skills and linkages with essential services including in health, nutrition and WASH.

**Syria**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

In Syria, to date, over 12.3 million people have been reached through messaging on prevention of COVID-19 and access to services through RCCE actions, including community-based dialogues and key influencer engagements; establishment and expansion of community influencers’ networks.
UNICEF in partnership with WHO is supporting the Ministry of Information to conduct an Opinion Survey around COVID-19 aimed at reaching 6,000 people in governorates. At the time of reporting, an online training was concluded for 30 data collectors. An estimated deadline for receiving the final report is the end of October 2020.

The community rapid assessment exercise led by UNICEF in partnership with WHO, has been concluded in Al-Hol camp. The exercise aimed to collect data around behavioral aspects of COVID-19. In the process the team of 80 volunteers reached over 9,700 households (HHs) with the survey. The data is currently being analyzed by two above-mentioned agencies.

UNICEF continued RCCE outreach and awareness activities in the governorates. During reporting period, as schools reopened, the primary focus was working with School Health Departments and the Directorates of Education in all 14 governorates. Accordingly, over 110,600 wall and floor stickers were dispatched to schools to be used as behavioral nudges in corridors and WASH facilities to promote handwashing and physical distancing.

During the week of 15 October, the Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in all governorates, where radio and social media campaigns, awareness sessions, youth initiatives were widely conducted, taking into account COVID-19 preventive measures. More than 300 volunteers were engaged in above mentioned activities, aiming to reach 25,000 children and their parents.

In Northwest Syria, UNICEF continued leading RCCE pillar with social media and RCCE initiatives, reaching over 149,000 people/caregivers and sharing COVID-19 related messages through 7,213 social media posts.

Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners continued providing COVID-19 awareness sessions in all Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) while Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) started remote and face to face sessions on psychosocial support (PSS) and parenting during pandemic. Additionally, awareness raising activities on infection protection measures took place, while risk education program was adopted to be implemented online.

In response to COVID-19, over 10,800 parents and primary caregivers were provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support and messaging during reporting time. Moreover, the number of UNICEF Personnel and Partners who have completed Training on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Risk Mitigation and Referrals for Survivors reached 1,540 during reporting month. This includes 124 children without parental or family care, who were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.

In northwest Syria, child protection and GBV case management services have continued to be central in the delivery of protection for children. During this period, case management has identified and provided services to 325 new children from IDP and host communities. Additionally, partners have provided alternative care arrangements to three unaccompanied and separated children. Community based PSS sessions have been delivered online, in reduced groups or/home to home in some instances. During this period, PSS reached 5,357 children and parents/primary caregivers in IDP settings, as well as host communities.

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

UNICEF continued to support water trucking to Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakeh city, five camps in the northern rural Aleppo, East Ghouta, and Al-Zhouria area in Homs, which hosts Al-Rukban IDPs. During this process, emergency water trucking reached 48 schools in East Ghouta and ten schools in Aleppo's northern rural area. 478,000 Aqua Tabs were distributed to the most vulnerable families in Al-Hasakeh city to ensure safe drinking water for those families, which mainly depend on water trucking.

In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF continued to support the most vulnerable families across the country, including newly accessible areas in Idleb, by providing soap bars through monthly distributions, along with WFP monthly food distributions targeting 3.5 million people.

Hygiene promotion activities continued throughout reporting period in Deir-ez Zor and Aleppo to promote best hygiene practices and to address COVID-19 preventive measures.

For the schools reopening in September, UNICEF under the School Reopening Framework's Implementation Plan, continued to support the delivery of 23,000 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) kits (soap, liquid chlorine, cleaning items) to 11,500 schools across the county during the report period.
In northwest Syria, at least 373,500 IDPs in 447 camps were served with treated water for domestic daily use in the amount of 35 litres per day to support additional handwashing and cleaning, as a preventive measure against COVID-19. In addition, over 92,500 IDPs and host population in Aleppo and Idleb benefited from water services provision to hospitals and healthcare facilities. Moreover, some 283,400 IDPs and host population continue to receive regular water supply through operational support of 26 water pump stations with chemicals, fuel and staff incentives in Idleb and Aleppo.

**Continuity of health care services for women and children**

As part of routine immunization, 30,105 children under one year old were vaccinated with routine vaccination containing Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3). The total number of children reached to date is 310,322 (60 per cent of the annual target).

Progress continued to be made in primary health care (PHC), 122,421 free medical consultations were delivered to women and children through fixed points and mobile teams in all 14 governorates, bringing the overall number of PHC consultations to 1,086,739 (72 per cent of the annual target).

Despite challenges with containment measures for COVID-19, UNICEF continued the provision of nutrition services. Some 90,800 children under the age of five as well as pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition, and over 48,500 of them were provided with micronutrients. As a result of screening activities, 429 children were identified and treated for severe acute malnutrition. In addition, UNICEF continued to support the preventative nutrition interventions, and as a result around 30,300 caregivers including PLWs were reached with awareness on COVID-19 prevention and appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

With UNICEF’s support, the Ministry of Health implemented C4D activities, in light of National Immunization Days (NIDs) for the Polio campaign, which took place from 11 to 15 October 2020. Key messages about COVID-19 and IPC prevention measures were shared widely throughout the campaign.

During the reporting period, 18 training sessions (one day each) took place in nine governorates reaching 450 nurses and midwives from nursing schools on COVID-19 and infection control and prevention (ICP) and the rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Social protection and social sector financing**

During the reporting period, as part of COVID-19 response, UNICEF reached around 2,250 households (HHs) in poor urban areas of Aleppo and Homs governorate with an emergency cash transfer for basic needs, bringing the total number of HHs reached since the beginning of the year to over 26,600 HHs in the governorates of Aleppo, Latakia, Homs and rural Damascus. Due to hyperinflation that local markets are facing, UNICEF is vertically expanding this programme by increasing the level of benefit by 60 per cent to help ease the financial burden on families.

ADAP programme continues to support the young people engagement in COVID-19 prevention and dissemination of awareness raising messages in their local communities, for instance, on the occasion of World Handwashing Day, young people implemented initiative in coordination with WASH, Education, and C4D to disseminate messages on the importance of hand washing at the times of COVID-19 as a precautionary procedure for self-protection. The initiative targeted the schools in most vulnerable areas in eastern Aleppo, and 70 young boys and girls planned and implemented the initiative in 14 schools to engage and benefit around 13,000 children and 300 teachers.

Additionally, “Face Mask Design Challenge” was kicked off during the week of 18 October 2020 on social media to encourage young people to design the face masks with inspiring messages, including those related to COIVD-19 or any related youth/community issues.

**Tunisia**

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to 19 October, more than 110 communication materials have been produced and disseminated through various communication channels (TV, radio, digital content, urban display and print materials), reaching over 7 million people.
To date, UNICEF social media platforms have reached a total of 31.5 million impressions with the various communication material developed within the country (Facebook 26,373,569 impressions, Instagram 5,068,881 Twitter 39,154, LinkedIn 21,208, website 31,624 user sessions).

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF has launched a new communication campaign to sensitize the general public on the right way to wear face masks. This includes one TV spot and one radio spot that are currently being aired nationwide.

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**

UNICEF has been supporting the Ministry of Education in developing the condensed curricula adapted to the new school time due to COVID-19 (i.e.: students are going to schools only three days a week). This modality will be applied to all school children in the baccalaureate from Grade 1 to Grade 13.

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

On the occasion of International Handwashing Day and thanks to the funds provided by USAID, UNICEF together with the Tunisian Scouts Association has organized a series of activities in more than 70 day care centers, academic residences and schools across Tunisia to raise awareness among children and their parents about the key protective measures against COVID-19, including handwashing. These activities were carried out from 14 October 2020, to 17 October 2020.

**Social protection and social sector financing**

With UNICEF’s technical support, the Ministry of Social Affairs has implemented the first tranche of top-up cash transfer for school-aged children to support back to school activities, reaching 177,647 children. Registration of children under 5 is still ongoing. The programme, supported by UNICEF and financed by KfW (German Credit Institute for Reconstruction), will target approximately a total of 330,000 vulnerable children for a period of eight months, acting as a bridge until the new multi-partner budget support is launched in early 2021.

**Yemen**

**Supporting access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services**

The Ministry of Education and education authorities across the country along with partners worked 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. At the school level, distribution of prepositioned educational supplies is ongoing across 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).

The new school year in Aden started for secondary students on 6 September and for primary students on 4 October. For Sana’a, the reopening was 17 October. UNICEF was part of the task force together with the authorities to support the safe school re-opening process.

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

UNICEF continued with the provision of WASH Service Delivery (Contributes to Pillar 6) by prioritizing IDP Sites, IDPs, refugees, returnees and high-risk population by supporting access to safe water in urban and rural areas. This was done through operations of WASH systems, rehabilitation of non-functional water supply system in the rural areas and emergency water trucking, installation of water points, water quality monitoring and the chlorination of water. COVID-19 precautionary measures were taken throughout the chlorination and water quality monitoring actions. The beneficiaries were encouraged to wash their hands and clean surfaces with chlorinated water. In addition to water quality monitoring, the field teams ensure the disinfecting of surfaces at drinking water distribution points.

UNICEF supported 32,751 people in Monabbih in Sa’ada Governate and in Marib city, Harib Qaramish, and Sirwah districts in Marib governorates with improved water sources through the construction of a new water supply system, distribution and installation of a pumping system. 152,677 individuals from IDPs and High-Risk population groups in Hajjah and Hodiedah were reached with water trucking. Sustained improved water supply to 1,125,657 people in Sana city was established through electricity support and 820,000 people in various governorates were supported through fuel support for the operation of the existing water supply system to ensure the availability of water supply for personal hygiene and domestic use. Around 3,816,376 people benefited from UNICEF supported water quality monitoring to
reduce the vulnerability of the community to other water-related outbreaks in Amant Asimah Dhamar, Amran and Sana’a governorates. In addition, 700,000 IDPs in Sana’a benefited on a daily basis from UNICEF supported water chlorination during the reporting period.

UNICEF supported integrated response to the recent flood crisis with a package of life-saving and COVID-19 preventive (IPC) intervention, UNICEF supported the displaced families in Marib and governorates on its border who are hosted in 55 IDPs informal settlements in Marib governorates through its non-governmental partner and supported the distribution of 3,208 basic hygiene kits (BHK), to newly-arrived displaced families, benefiting 22,456 people and 9,336 community health works (CHK) targeting 65,352 IDPs Hygiene promotion conducted to complement sanitation activities.

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 on COVID-19 guidelines. Between March and August 2020, more than two million beneficiaries were reached by PHC series. Further COVID-19 orientations are the halted at the moment in North due to directive from MOPHP to stop all COVID-19 related trainings.

In Sanaa, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of triage 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 along with an instructional video.

A total of 93 oxygen concentrators were distributed, and procurement of 300 is in process.

PPE was provided to 59 isolation units, distribution of PPE shipments that has arrived to 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 arrived in country. To maintain the quality of the immunization supply chain 72 additional fridges installed during August, totalling 306 SDDs installed in 2020 for the country of Yemen.

A Polio vaccination campaign completed in 13 southern governorates, and a total of 1,186,873 children under 5 years of age received polio vaccines (96 per cent coverage) and 905,005 children (6-59 months) were provided with Vitamin A supplements.

Advocacy and on-the-ground efforts are ongoing to support the implementation of three-rounds of integrated outreaches in Sa’ada, and house to house polio vaccination activities in Al Jawf, Amran, and Hajja governorates along with possible integration of WASH and measles vaccination.

Coordination
Under the auspices of the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)/MENA regional RCCE inter-agency working group co-led by UNICEF, WHO and IFRC, sub-working groups on 1) COVID-19 vaccine RCCE and demand generation; and 2) media initiatives were activated. The former meets fortnightly and includes multilateral partners involved in regional preparations for the roll-out of vaccines. The latter is co-led by Internews and comprises members that are planning and implementing scaled media initiatives. The key takeaways from the sub-working groups’ discussions are shared and reflected upon when the main RCCE inter-agency working group convenes (every two weeks).

UNICEF has been collaborating with WHO EMRO and GAVI on the regular regional working group and multi-stakeholders dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on immunization. UNICEF also has been participating in the COVAX Facility regional working group, responsible for coordinating preparedness planning for deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine, once it is made available. UNICEF is not only co-chair of this working group but is also co-leading the sub-working groups on vaccine supply and logistics, as well as demand and RCCE.

Around the international day of the teacher (5th of October), UNICEF with its partners, advocated the crucial role of the teacher to keep learning going. A joint statement was published calling upon the need to pay teachers in Yemen. To support joint advocacy around keeping learning going, the joint UN agencies launched the “Back to Learning” song and hosted, with the WB, a Ministerial Meeting on the 14th of October around Government’s plans to reopen schools and challenges faced during this process.

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UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with other key actors in social protection from the private sector (i.e. Oman), academic institutions and think tanks (i.e. Egypt, Jordan) and other development and humanitarian partners, including the UN (Iraq and Lebanon) 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)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**CAMPAIGN PAGES**

#MaskUp

لا تنسوا الكمامات

**PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS**

TikTok and UNICEF MENA Come Together for the #MaskUp Campaign Across MENA

UNICEF provided more than 182,000 test kits to help fight COVID-19 in Iran

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF MENA Regional Director’s speech to WHO EMRO Regional Committee

UN agencies launch “Learning is Back”, a song on return to learning in the Middle East and North Africa

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF MENA Regional Director's Closing Remarks at the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Back to Learning

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

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

**PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES**

الجاهزية للعودة

Ready to Come Back

**ARTICLES AND BLOGS**

UNICEF introduces disposable MUAC tapes for children amid fears of COVID-19 transmission

UNICEF supports Grade 9 students from hard-to-reach areas to sit for national exams in Aleppo

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

No dream too far; Sama’s journey to a better future

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

Eyad’s return to education despite challenges

Never too late: Adla’s return to education
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 October, UNICEF has received $219 million – accounting for 60% of the target. However, the region still urgently needs an additional $141 million to support governments, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus (see table below).

UNICEF MENA would like to express its sincere gratitude for the generous contributions from its public and private partners, such as the Government of Japan, the United Kingdom, UN OCHA, the United States of America, the European Union, the Government of Canada and the Government of Germany. UNICEF MENA also accessed generous flexible contributions received centrally to address immediate funding gaps of critical interventions.

Additionally, on 21st October, UNICEF MENA coordinated a Partnership Commencement webinar with a new corporate partner, Zain Group. The webinar united over 80 colleagues from both Zain and UNICEF, across 7 countries in the MENA region and South Sudan. It was designed to mobilize teams at the country level to explore innovative collaborations which support the realization of children’s rights during and beyond the pandemic. UNICEF’s Deputy Regional Director and Zain’s Chief Sustainability Officer both opened the webinar and issued a call to action to colleagues to be ambitious in developing country level partnerships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>$1,405,000</td>
<td>$3,121,845</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>$7,935,000</td>
<td>$2,182,946</td>
<td>$5,752,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>$30,916,000</td>
<td>$5,565,312</td>
<td>$25,350,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>$17,210,970</td>
<td>$7,325,758</td>
<td>$9,885,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>$11,837,000</td>
<td>$7,042,500</td>
<td>$4,794,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>$22,709,753</td>
<td>$20,879,796</td>
<td>$1,829,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>$58,902,507</td>
<td>$24,447,501</td>
<td>$34,455,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>$16,100,000</td>
<td>$7,324,033</td>
<td>$8,775,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>$5,070,000</td>
<td>$4,128,070</td>
<td>$941,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td>$147,456</td>
<td>$212,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Palestine</td>
<td>$16,065,645</td>
<td>$12,293,874</td>
<td>$3,771,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>$24,535,000</td>
<td>$25,988,100</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>$30,581,925</td>
<td>$25,583,039</td>
<td>$4,998,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>$8,100,000</td>
<td>$8,003,018</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>$103,257,802</td>
<td>$63,346,910</td>
<td>$39,910,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENARO</td>
<td>$1,906,000</td>
<td>$1,619,811</td>
<td>$286,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$356,892,602</strong></td>
<td><strong>$218,999,970</strong></td>
<td><strong>$141,062,577</strong></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 22/10/2020. 
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 per cent respectively.

For information on the funding status of the US$1.6 billion global UNICEF appeal, visit: www.unicef.org/coronavirus/donors-and-partners

Next SitRep: 30 November 2020

22 Tunisia Office receive a generous contribution from Germany (KFW) amounting EUR 11,745,454.56 (US$13,949,489) focusing on Investing towards children’s human capital through a sustainable and inclusive social protection system
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Response Targets</th>
<th>2020 target*</th>
<th>Total 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>
</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>258,166,930</td>
<td>(16,885,909)(^{23})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions</td>
<td>42,923,500</td>
<td>39,301,262</td>
<td>(2,622,238)</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>1,011,314</td>
<td>143,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infection prevention control (IPC)/ WASH</strong></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>16,507,402</td>
<td>903,752</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>179,114</td>
<td>8,799</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>14,636</td>
<td>2,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of essential health and nutrition services</strong></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>9,121</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn 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>7,388,647</td>
<td>853,581</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>3,577,670</td>
<td>2,503,237</td>
<td>247,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>665,400</td>
<td>280,161</td>
<td>49,657</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td>7,264,557</td>
<td>5,558,081</td>
<td>596,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td>31,766</td>
<td>28,048</td>
<td>14,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>19,062</td>
<td>13,301</td>
<td>200</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>406,038</td>
<td>56,871</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>5,858</td>
<td>1,089</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>1,269,993</td>
<td>22,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19-19</td>
<td>174,500</td>
<td>70,980</td>
<td>5,594</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>12,500,917</td>
<td>497,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Targets are as of 22 October 2020

\(^{23}\) Figures of Iran have been adjusted