HIGHLIGHTS

• With financial support from USAID, all rural primary health care (PHC) doctors will enhance their knowledge on COVID-19 prevention and management through a centralised communication platform. UNICEF is providing internet access to 1,000 rural health clinics – please see WEEKLY FOCUS on page 4.

• UNICEF, in partnership with Caritas Czech Republic, is carrying out trainings for 1,300 rural PHC professionals in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases as well as conducting remote maternal and child health consultations.

• UNICEF handed over 1,050 boxes of food and hygiene supplies to the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality for further distribution to vulnerable families residing near the Administrative Boundary Line, reaching over 4,200 individuals.

• A youth hotline, as part of the child hotline “111”, was established to address adolescent and young people’s mental health and psychosocial needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 120 adolescents receiving confidential support so far.

• The “Learn more about “COVID-19” TV programme was broadcast on nine regional TV channels, airing over 100 programmes with the latest information about COVID-19, reaching approximately 900,000 viewers per week.

• In Abkhazia, Georgia, 398 families, including 1,249 children, received food and hygiene parcels.

• UNICEF trained 100 preschool managers and education specialists in Adjara on supporting early child learning and development remotely in low and high technology contexts.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>249,934</th>
<th>2,987</th>
<th>13,549</th>
<th>478</th>
<th>Abkhazia</th>
<th>10,486</th>
<th>152</th>
<th>UNICEF funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed cases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US$ 1,284,412 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (&lt;18 years) cases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantined</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

• UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on risk communication; provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers; and mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

The State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Tea Akhvlediani and UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil and visiting the villages across the ABL – Sakorintlo (Kaspi Municipality) and Odzisi (Dusheti Municipality) to deliver hygiene and non-perishable food supplies to vulnerable families.
SOCIAL PROTECTION

- UNICEF handed over 1,050 parcels with food and hygiene supplies to the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality for further distribution to vulnerable families, including female-headed households, households with many children, and families with a child with a disability, residing near the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL), as well as ethnic minority populations. The intervention is reaching approximately 4,200 vulnerable individuals with critical support.

- The National Statistics Office of Georgia, with technical support from UNICEF, completed the first wave of the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) survey to examine the impact of COVID-19 on employment, income, education etc. The data is currently being analysed.

- UNICEF supported the Kutaisi Municipality Child Rights Protection and Support Unit to effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable families with children through the provision of tablets, laptops and printers to facilitate remote and/or hybrid service delivery especially during the COVID pandemic.

COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC) & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- UNICEF is providing technical support to NCDC in the development of the Government’s strategy on COVID-19 vaccine deployment including its corresponding communication strategy on COVID-19 vaccine introduction.

- UNICEF continues to support parents in child development, communication and learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including recommendations on how to communicate with children, how to use positive parenting skills, how to become supporters of children and help them during online schooling. A webinar about negotiation skills for parents reached 76,000 parents across the country and generated 1,500 comments and 280 shares in less than 24 hours. The project, which is implemented in partnership with Parents for Education and with financial support from USAID, reached 111,861 parents in the past three months.

- With financial support from USAID, the “Learn more about “COVID-19” TV programme was broadcast on nine regional TV channels, airing over 100 programmes with the latest information about COVID-19, protection measures, new regulations and the latest medical news in Georgian and minority languages. Approximately 900,000 viewers are reached per week. A video about the partnership was developed and aired.

- Animated videos about how to properly wear a face-mask and what to do while you wait for your COVID-19 test results, developed in partnership with NCDC, were aired by national broadcasters and shared on NCDC and Government social media platforms. The animated videos were developed with financial support from USAID.

- With support from USAID, 60 young people around Georgia, including from minority populations, have been selected to act as Youth Health Ambassadors to assist in disseminating information on COVID-19 prevention measures. As part of the campaign, a digital information package on handwashing was developed and widely shared to promote handwashing practices and motivate young people to use protective measures against the virus.

- Online portal Izrun.ge continued sharing reliable information about COVID-19 and preventive measures amongst school children using a series of weekly quizzes. The quizzes generated over 50,000 engagements.

- UNICEF Georgia’s ChatBot engaged in 169 conversations with young people, providing reliable information about COVID-19, violence against children, and mental health issues.

- UNICEF continued to advocate for COVID-19 protective measures through its social media platforms and released special posters for children.

- UNICEF risk communication reached 1,205,087 people through Facebook on COVID-19 issues.

HEALTH, NUTRITION & WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- In partnership with the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre, UNICEF contracted the telecommunication company “Skytel” to establish internet connections in 1,000 rural ambulatories and/or hybrid service delivery especially during the COVID pandemic.

- With support from USAID, 111,861 parents in the past three months

- The quizzes generated over 50,000 engagements.

- UNICEF continued to advocate for COVID-19 protective measures through its social media platforms and released special posters for children.

- UNICEF, in partnership with Caritas Czech Republic, is carrying out trainings for 1,300 rural primary healthcare professionals in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases. Rural doctors have been trained in conducting remote health consultations for mothers and caregivers on topics related to post-partum or childcare in order to ensure the continuity of basic mother and child health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
ADOLESCENTS / YOUTH

- Youth volunteers contributed 1,333 hours to peer education, distance learning, volunteering with homeless children, supporting homeless and elderly citizens, organizing activities for young people, assistance to socially vulnerable families, providing cognitive activities for people with disabilities etc.
- Online posters to raise awareness about volunteering were disseminated through Facebook reaching 12,800 people.
- 110 new volunteers participated in volunteering activities with guidance of the NGO “Helping Hand”.
- 10 webinars were organized by youth volunteers on various topics including volunteering, how to manage stress, COVID-19 prevention measures, etc. which were attended by 200 young people from various regions of Georgia.
- A youth hotline, as part of the child hotline “111”, was established to address adolescent and young people’s mental health and psychosocial needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, with focus on addressing substance abuse and gambling within the framework of the partnership with the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia and the State Care Agency and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking. Around 120 adolescents received confidential support.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNICEF is supporting the Public Defender’s Office in commissioning a rapid needs assessment on child labour in the context of COVID-19 in selected regions of Georgia.
- In 2020, the child hotline “111” responded to 1,676 cases, of which 1,540 already received assistance and were closed accordingly. As of January 2021, the child hotline “111” has been integrated into the activities of the State Care Agency.
- Initiatives for Social Change (ISC) developed guidelines on remote mediation for the National Agency for Probation and Crime Prevention.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Akhalkalaki Integration Centre, provided food packages and/or online sessions in vocational skills, art therapy, and “sports hour” sessions to nine young people with disabilities and their families.
- In Abkhazia, Georgia, 398 families, including 1,249 children, received food and hygiene parcels. In 2020, more than 500 families from all districts of Abkhazia were reached, most of them were receiving monthly assistance.
- UNICEF supported a review and analysis of the work carried out by social workers in all districts of Abkhazia in 2020 (including COVID-19 response activities) and identified priorities for 2021.

EDUCATION

- UNICEF conducted a webinar “Distance Learning in Early Childhood and Preschool Education” for preschool managers and education specialists of Adjara kindergartens. Around 100 participants attended the sessions on how to support youngest children’s learning and development remotely in low and high technology contexts.
- A 6-week online student-centred instruction (SCI) methodology course is underway for education experts in the Abkhazia region.

WEEKLY FOCUS: Rural primary health care (PHC) doctors in Georgia will improve their knowledge and management of COVID-19 cases using a new online portal.

All rural primary health care (PHC) doctors in Georgia will enhance their knowledge on COVID-19 prevention and management through a centralised communication platform launched by the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre of the Ministry of IDPs, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs and UNICEF, with financial support from USAID.

The online platform will become a notification centre for the doctors to receive relevant information, protocols and guidelines, as well as a task-distribution and monitoring tool. The platform will offer various cloud-based tools including video conferencing, livestreams and recorded video trainings to improve their knowledge on evidence-based clinical care standards. In addition, it will enable doctors to participate in facilitated small group discussions and topic-based chats to share experiences and to support case management. UNICEF is providing internet access to 1,000 rural health clinics and has equipped rural doctors with headphones and webcams so that they can participate in audio-video conferences and provide online consultations.
The main goal of the centralised platform is to help rural populations, including mothers and children, receive quality health care services from well-trained rural primary healthcare professionals. A video highlighted the story of how being connected has changed the daily work of one PHC doctor.

"Health systems around the world are challenged by an increasing demand for care of people with COVID-19. Unified communication tools such as the online platform will equip rural healthcare professionals with the latest information and skills to better manage the risks related to COVID-19. UNICEF will continue to enhance telehealth to ensure the continuity of primary health care services in Georgia." – UNICEF Representative Ghassan Khalil

UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ghassan Khalil, meeting with rural doctors and discussing telemedicine

**FUNDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>260,650</td>
<td>253,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,001,399</td>
<td>2,146,287</td>
<td>855,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>241,950</td>
<td>158,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,415,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,130,987</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,284,412</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARTNERSHIPS**

UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 17 February 2021.

**CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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

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

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

Thea Jamaspishvili
Reports Assistant
Mobile: +995 599 166 773
Email: tjamaspishvili@unicef.org