**UNICEF Georgia COVID-19 Situation Report**  
14 April 2021

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- UNICEF Representative, together with the Ambassadors of Norway and Estonia, paid a joint visit to the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, visited a school in village Makhuntseti, met with local youth, as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations – please see MONTHLY FOCUS on page 4.
- UNICEF continues to support the COVID-19 vaccination process through social media campaign.
- With financial support from USAID, a centralised online platform at the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre is now operational, with 1,300 rural primary healthcare professionals undergoing training in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases.
- On 2 April, the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia, with support from UNICEF, presented a study on the effects of COVID-19 on child labour.
- UNICEF and USAID-supported project on positive parenting during the pandemic reached over 3 million people during the past 3.5 months.
- UNICEF reached 1,238,213 people with its social media content during the past month.

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<tr>
<th>SITUATION IN NUMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>291,214</strong></td>
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<td>Confirmed cases</td>
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**HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY**

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

**COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC) & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- UNICEF is supporting the COVID-19 vaccination process through the provision of social media analytics on vaccines to partners at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs (MoIDPOTLHSA). UNICEF is promoting vaccination through telling the stories of doctors (Ketevan, Tako, Tamuna, David) who got their vaccines. The doctors shared their motivations on getting vaccinated, along with supportive information about the benefits of vaccination.
- With financial support from USAID, 60 Youth Health Ambassadors around the country continue creating and sharing communications packages on COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as holding community meetings where they share the knowledge they received during trainings provided as part of the project. "The Audience was very interested especially in topics about the vaccination, and we had a discussion at the end of the meeting. I think I was successful in debunking some false facts they had. As a result of the meeting, many expressed readiness to be vaccinated." – says Giorgi, one of the Youth Ambassadors. A total of 35 peer seminars/discussion workshops were completed.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the parents’ network “Parents for Education”, supported parents through online meetings and educational resources on how to communicate with children, how to use positive parenting skills, how to become supporters of children and help them during online schooling. Over 300,000 parents were engaged in the project, including through 35 different multimedia products, including webinars, online quizzes, video blogs and reading materials. The last webinar – a webinar for parents of teenagers about how to increase their motivation to study and learn was attended live by 700 parents and later viewed by 31,000 social media users, with views and shares growing daily.
- UNICEF Representative’s joint visit together with the Ambassadors of Estonia and Norway to the Autonomous Republic of Adjara served as a platform for advocacy of the importance of continued access to education throughout the COVID pandemic by visiting a school in Makhuntseti village, where the learning process resumed after 8 months of lockdown. The importance of keeping schools safely open was stressed once again, as the school received educational and
developmental resources to support its inclusive education programmes. The Ambassadors and UNICEF Representative also met with local youth, as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations to enhance their programming in the region.

“I am glad to meet again with Shorena from the Makhuntseti school. Shorena is glad to be back to school and I wish her a successful learning.” – UNICEF Representative Dr Ghassan Khalil

UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil visiting the Makhuntseti school, Keda Municipality of AR Adjara, following the school reopening.

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

• A centralised online platform at the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre is now operational. The platform, developed in partnership with UNICEF, Caritas Czech Republic in Georgia, Czech Development Agency and with financial support from USAID, aims to build the capacity of 1,300 rural primary healthcare professionals in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases. Some rural doctors (Luisa, Amiran) share their experiences of working with the new platform and supporting the local population on COVID-19 prevention and management (video stories).

“Glad to visit the Geguti health clinic and meet family doctor, Dr Luisa Samsonia, who is actively involved in online trainings and online consultations. Her example should encourage other rural doctors to use technology to support patients.” – UNICEF Representative Dr Ghassan Khalil

UNICEF Representative in Georgia Dr Ghassan Khalil visiting the local rural clinic in village Geguti, Imereti region, together with representatives from USAID Georgia and Czech Development Agency.
• UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil and Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia, H.E. Riina Kaljurand met with the scouts of Adjara. The young scouts provided information about the challenges adolescents face in Adjara region, especially in high mountainous villages and the ways to solve them. They also talked about their activities related to sharing information about the rights of children through various means, including organising online camps.

• UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil, Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia, H.E. Riina Kaljurand and Ambassador of Norway to Georgia, H.E. Helene Sand Andresen visited the office of the NGO “Global Initiative on Psychiatry”. With the support of UNICEF, online sessions were held for adolescents and their parents from Tbilisi, Gori and Batumi to cope with stress and maintain emotional stability. The psychiatrics and psychologist of the organisation discussed the challenges adolescents, and their parents face in Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic and provided their suggestions on how to cope with the challenges.

CHILD PROTECTION

• On 2 April 2021, the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia, with support from UNICEF, held a presentation of a study on the effects of COVID-19 on child labour.

• With UNICEF’s support, the Public Defender’s Office is monitoring sexual violence against children by analysing case-laws and identifying shortcomings in the process of responding to cases of sexual violence against children.

• In line with the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC), UNICEF started working with the Public Defender’s Office to undertake and complete a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19.

• UNICEF, together with the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW), is supporting the State Care Agency to develop case management procedures. Currently, GASW is formulating the case management instruments in close cooperation with the frontline social workers.

• UNICEF continues the provision of operation and methodological support to 33 social workers working with vulnerable children and their families in all districts of Abkhazia.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

• UNICEF conducted a mapping of social protection measures for children with disabilities in Georgia; the mapping document depicts different types of support that central and local government provides to children with disabilities. The mapping was presented to state agencies, disability persons organisations, UN sister agencies and other stakeholders to support national efforts to optimize social protection measures for children with disabilities.

• On March 30, the findings from Real Time Monitoring Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office of Georgia, with support from UNICEF and with financial resources from USAID, were presented to stakeholders. The effect of the pandemic on household incomes and employment; protective measures against COVID infection employed by the households; and effect on children’s education were explored and presented.

• Under the framework of the Child-Friendly City Initiative and the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNICEF and Batumi Municipality, the child rights situation analysis was conducted, and the findings presented to the
Municipality. A broader working meeting with the Municipality working group is planned in the next reporting period to prioritize the findings and translate them into the actions.

**EDUCATION**

UNICEF Representative, Dr Ghassan Khalil, Ambassador of Estonia in Georgia Riina Kaljurand, and high officials from Batumi Mayors Office visited Batumi kindergarten #34 where new, standard-based methodological approaches were introduced by UNICEF through intensive supervision and coaching of staff throughout the year.

**MONTHLY FOCUS: Ambassadors’ visit to the Autonomous Republic of Adjara**

UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil, together with the Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia H.E. Riina Kaljurand and the Ambassador of Norway to Georgia H.E. Helene Sand Andresen paid a joint visit to the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, visited schools and kindergartens, met with local youth, as well as governmental representatives and NGOs. The Ambassadors and UNICEF Representative visited the school in Makhuntseti village of Keda municipality and #34 public kindergarten in Batumi.

During the joint visit, the UNICEF Representative and the Ambassadors of Estonia and Norway held meetings with the Chair of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Tornike Rijvadze and the Mayor of Batumi, A. Chikovani, as well as the MoESCS of Adjara, M. Khajishvili and Deputy Minister Eka Dgebuadze, and discussed ongoing and future projects to improve the quality and inclusiveness of educational system.

UNICEF Representative also met the Minister of Health and Social Protection of Adjara AR, Nino Nizharadze and discussed COVID-19 situation, implementation of protection measures and vaccination progress in the region. Also, as part of UNICEF’s efforts to promote child rights culture in Georgia, the first Child Rights Centre was opened at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University together with Rector Dr. Khalvashi. The Child Rights Centre will serve as a resource hub and spread knowledge about child rights among different professionals, educators, academia, civil society organisations, parents and children in Adjara.

As part of UNICEF’s partnership with religious leaders to promote child rights in Georgia, UNICEF Representative and the Ambassadors met with the Bishop of Batumi and Lazeti Eparchy Most Rev Dimitri. UNICEF Representative and the Ambassadors also met with Mufti of All Georgia, Adam Shantadze. During these meetings situation of children in Adjara was discussed as well as plans of Batumi city to become child-friendly.
FUNDING 2021

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<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>675,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>402,750</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,472,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
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PARTNERSHIPS
UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 19 May 2021.

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