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Middle East & North Africa Region

COVID-19

Situation Report No. 5

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for every child

Highlights

- A significant increase in the number of weekly COVID-19 cases was recorded in several countries of the region. A further increase in the number of weekly deaths for the region was also recorded after six weeks of decline in the curve. This comes at a time where several countries are easing or lifting restrictions and lockdown measures.
- Iran is facing a consistent increase in weekly new cases for the third consecutive week coinciding with the lifting of restrictions; it accounts to 41.5 per cent of recent deaths in the region.
- In Sudan, Syria and Yemen, risks of malnutrition and food insecurity are being further exacerbated by the pandemic; 93,000 children were treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition. Serious concerns remain over a possible ongoing “silent” transmission, including in northern Yemen where only four cases were confirmed since the first case, seven weeks ago.
- More than 2.3 million children and women have received essential healthcare services. In Egypt, a spike in deaths was recorded recently and the health system might be showing signs of an overwhelm.
- Directly and indirectly through national platforms, UNICEF reached 163 million people with Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages on COVID-19 prevention. UNICEF is adapting messages to reduce risks of new infections in countries lifting restrictions and re-opening public places.
- In Iraq, UNICEF is developing a learning model for 12,600 displaced children in Ninewa and Erbil Governorates, blending home-based learning with classroom education. It includes the development of adapted curriculums, catch-up sessions, community learning-facilitation, safe schools’ protocols and trainings for teachers.
- UNICEF continues to advocate for all children to be released from detention. Nearly 2,800 children were released since the beginning of the pandemic. Through remote and in-person interventions, 180,000 children and parents were provided with mental health and psychosocial support.

Situation in Numbers



437,410 COVID-19 cases.



11,316 COVID-19 deaths



15 million children at risk of missing their measles and polio vaccination campaigns.



Risk of **10 per cent increase in Severe Acute Malnutrition** prevalence in Djibouti, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

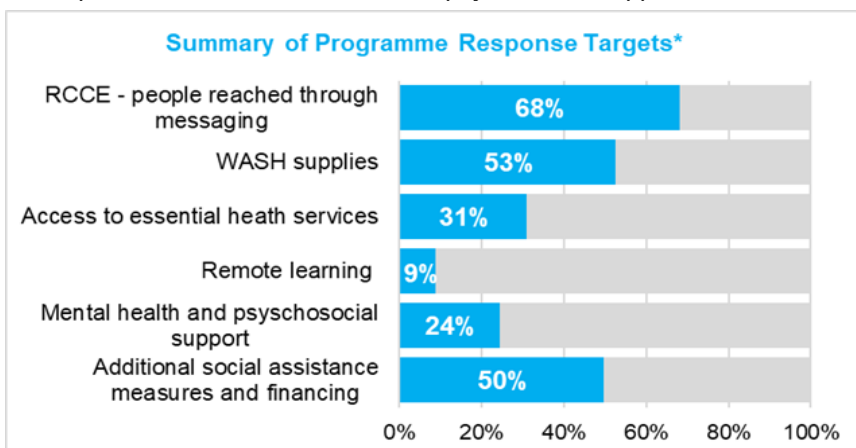
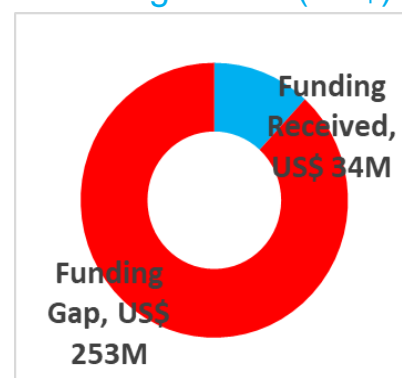


Almost **110 million school aged students** are not in school due to closure of education facilities.



US\$253 million funding gap (88%) for the UNICEF regional response.

Funding Status (US\$)

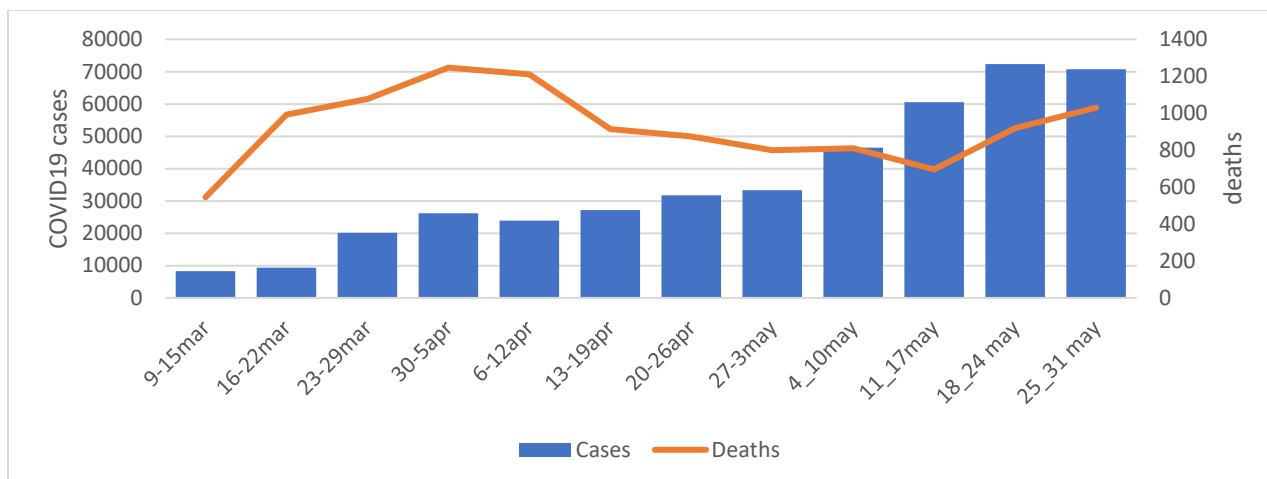


*as of 29 May

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, the number of weekly COVID-19 cases continued to increase in several countries of the region, including in countries easing or lifting restriction measures. Currently, there are 437,410 cases and 11,316 deaths in total. A recent increase in the number of weekly deaths has reoccurred after six weeks of a decline in the curve.

Weekly cases and associated deaths in the MENA region – March to May 2020



Iran, which is facing a recent increase in weekly new cases for the third consecutive week coinciding with the easing of lockdown measures, accounts for 21.5 per cent of new cases and 41.5 per cent of recent deaths in the region. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia saw the highest number of cases (36,085) recorded in the past two weeks, representing 22.2 per cent of the region's new cases, while Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE also recorded high numbers. This is likely linked to active testing and the use of electronic applications for tracing. The Gulf area accounts now for more than half (or 52 per cent) of the cases of the region.

The situation continues to be particularly worrying in Yemen, a country with a very fragile and overwhelmed health system and challenges in access to services. While the high Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of more than 24 per cent is most likely linked to the fact that only severe cases are being tested, the level of transmission at community level remains unknown. Most of the recorded cases are in the south, and only four cases were reported in the north since the first case was recorded seven weeks ago, suggesting that a "silent" transmission could be on-going.

The other country of concern is Sudan where primary health care centres are operating at a very limited capacity, with a total of 2,836 cases and 171 deaths, during the reporting period, in 14 out of 26 states. Meanwhile, the past week saw significant increases in Djibouti (+1,084 cases) and Iraq (+1,299 cases) - linked to a change in testing capacity and possibly an ease of lockdown measures. A first case was also confirmed in a camp of internally displaced people in the north of Iraq. In Egypt, a spike in deaths was recorded recently and the health system might be showing signs of an overwhelm. Syria and Libya are also recording significant increases in new cases, which comes after a month of reports of limited new cases.

Socio-economic and Humanitarian needs

In the past weeks and at the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, some countries across the region have continued to ease or lift restrictions and lockdown measures, notably across the Gulf, Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Iran, showing a gradual restarting of economic activity. As the COVID-19 pandemic had brought an abrupt halt to some anti-government protests in the region, the likelihood of renewed social tensions in some countries persists where the economic fall-out could become apparent, as highlighted in a [report](#) of The Economist intelligence unit.

In countries facing food crises, especially Sudan, Syria and Yemen, the quantity, frequency and diversity of the food that the most vulnerable children and families consume are being further exacerbated. These are among the top 10 countries in the world with the worst food crises in 2019, with a total of 28.4 million people affected and where UNICEF estimates the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to increase by ten percent by the end of the year. MENA regional directors from UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO issued a joint [statement](#) calling on Governments and partners to address the availability, access and affordability of safe and nutritious foods, while implementing the necessary health, prevention and control measures.

Meanwhile, evidence on the levels of disruption of basic and essential social services since the beginning of the spread of the pandemic is becoming more apparent. In Morocco, more than one third of children did not receive the scheduled immunizations (43% in rural areas) in February-March in comparison to 2019 levels, and around 30% of pregnant women and mothers are not accessing pre-natal care checks¹. In Lebanon, the number of children vaccinated is almost only half (March figures) in comparison to most of last-year levels. In Yemen, the use of immunizations, perinatal care, treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) services have all declined, showing a trend that women prefer to deliver at home than in maternity facilities. While the longer-term impacts of the crisis on health systems is still unclear, UNICEF is scaling up its support for the provision of access to essential health and nutrition services, as well as strengthening its communication and community engagement for families to access basic services.

It is expected that education institutions will mostly reopen in September 2020 for the new school year 2020/2021. Physical spacing measures and the possibility of second waves of infections will require to further develop and adapt models for remote and classroom education. On 20 May, a regional webinar with 14 ministries of education and partners was co-hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF to plan the reopening of schools, in line with the [Framework for Reopening Schools](#) that focuses on focusing on safe operations, learning, inclusiveness and wellbeing and protection. As part of the regional plan for a Back to School campaign, UNICEF and partners are developing a teacher's preparedness package. UNICEF is also supporting line ministries on the operationalization of guidelines/checklists for schools, community awareness raising campaigns, or the preparation of incentive packages so that the most vulnerable children do come back to school.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF's response in the Middle East and North Africa region has been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), as well as the UNICEF [Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#) which was revised and updated on 12 May to meet growing needs of children and families.

With several countries easing or lifting restrictions and lockdown measures, as well as the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, UNICEF continued to adapt RCCE messages to the evolving context. This includes the promotion of behaviours and practices to reduce increased risks of infection with the opening of public markets and transportation, workplaces, places of worship, or border and transit areas. Meanwhile, public campaigns have been initiated to promote the use of basic health and social services, as well as the provision of psychosocial support to parents and children.

Across the region - directly and indirectly through national platforms - UNICEF reached nearly 163 million people with RCCE messages and engaged an estimated 14.3 million on prevention practices and access to basic services. This accounts for more than a third of the total population in the region. In Syria, nearly 10 million people were reached through television and radio awareness campaigns and 2 million with printed information, education and communication materials. The low number of recorded COVID-19 cases in countries with possible 'silent' transmissions - including Syria, Sudan and Yemen - is constraining adherence to adequate prevention behaviours and requires sustained scale up of RCCE activities.

UNICEF reached over 6 million people across the region with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, including hygiene kits, and more than 40,000 healthcare workers have received Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) including gloves and masks. In Sudan, UNICEF provided 10 metric tons of PPEs for health centres across the country as well as 20 oxygen concentrators for isolation facilities. In Yemen, UNICEF provided 80 tents for new quarantine centres in five governorates. Nearly 2,000 hygiene kits were also provided to refugee camps in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, more than 2.3 million children and women have received essential healthcare services and 93,000 children were treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM); in addition, 1.2 million caregivers were reached with messages on breastfeeding. Support to the continuation or resumption of routine immunization continues. In Jordan, more than 80,000 refugees and host communities' children have been vaccinated since the resumption of services end of April, with UNICEF supporting national awareness-raising activities and the deployment of vaccination teams; support was provided to the screening of 25,000 new-born children on congenital anomalies through national systems.

UNICEF continues to support governments' efforts to provide remote learning, through both on-line and off-line initiatives, reaching more than 850,000 children in 14 countries. In Iraq, UNICEF is developing a learning model for 12,600 IDP children in Ninewa and Erbil Governorates, blending home-based learning with classroom education. It includes the development of adapted curriculums, catch-up sessions, community learning-facilitation, safe schools' protocols and trainings for teachers. The model might be replicated elsewhere in the country. Several countries in the region are preparing for the final exams of the 2019/2020 school year, either online or in schools that will be specifically

¹ https://www.hcp.ma/Enquete-sur-l-impact-du-coronavirus-sur-la-situation-economique-sociale-et-psychologique-des-menages-Note-de-synthese_a2506.html

reopened for this purpose in June. In the State of Palestine, UNICEF provided over 90,000 students and teachers with information and communication materials on COVID-19 protective measures to be taken at examination centres.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 180,000 children and parents/caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support throughout the region - both through remote and in-person initiatives - with a focus on vulnerable populations. In Yemen, child protection case management specialists completed a six-week online training course including remote service delivery. Meanwhile, UNICEF continues to strengthen support for community feedback and complaint channels in the COVID-19 response. Specific messages were developed for inter-agency networks on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), including in Lebanon and Sudan.

UNICEF is supporting governments on the operationalization of emergency cash transfers at scale for families affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. The first round of payments in Morocco are almost complete, reaching 4.1 million households. In Iraq, where payments have started, UNICEF helped develop the approach and modalities for assessing eligibility and registration. In Egypt, UNICEF is engaging with the IMF – as part of the UN Country Team (UNCT) – to advocate for social protection targets to be included in the IMF rapid financing package to be provided to the Government.

UNICEF Country Offices Programme Response

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

Algeria

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF and the National Body for the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights have increased RCCE messaging on psycho-social support, reaching 10 million families. It includes messaging on television and social media on COVID-19 prevention, promoting family cohesion, addressing mental health, children's participation in prevention messaging, and the promotion of values of solidarity to essential service providers.
- Algerian Muslim Scouts have been trained and engaged to promote compliance around use of masks which has become mandatory after Eid.
- 150 posters were distributed in the most crowded areas such as aid distribution points, shops and public places of the five Tindouf refugee camps, as a part of the ongoing COVID 19 awareness and prevention campaign.

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

- UNICEF supported the provision of a second batch of more than 9,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other medical equipment in Tindouf camps, as part of a joint mobilization of UN Humanitarian agencies and NGOs to support in infection prevention among health professionals in camps.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- UNICEF prepared a policy brief on social protection response to the COVID-19 crisis, highlighting the need to expand cash assistance measures to new categories of beneficiaries and adjust the size of the benefit for both informal workers and poor families with children to mitigate the impact of income-loss during the lockdown. The brief was presented to the National Economic and Social Council.

Djibouti

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF is adapting its risk communication activities and messaging on the measures to follow to prevent transmission during the easing of lockdown measures. A coordination meeting - under the leadership of the Ministry of Health - was held to agree on measures to amplify activities identifying misinformation and providing credible information on social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram). 187,704 people were reached.
- The partnership with national NGOs (CRD, WID, ADIM, ADSEG) was renewed to expand activities to new areas of the country. 3,229 people were reached by door-to-door with RCCE activities, with 620 people providing feedback.

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

- Providing water, hygiene and sanitation services in quarantine facilities for migrants in the Ali Sabieh region, which currently hosts a total of 511 migrants. Hygiene promotion actions are also underway.
- The partnership with the Djibouti Town Hall was extended to continue the facilitation of handwashing stations with soap to cover an additional three months.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Ten oxygen concentrators were delivered to the Ministry of Health to strengthen case management. They will be installed in hospitals to improve the management of cases of pneumonia and COVID-19.

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

- UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education to develop the TV learning programme and paper-based kits for 10,000 children with limited access to the internet.
- UNICEF supported training of teachers on remote learning with the digitalisation of training programmes.
- UNICEF supported the development of a national plan for Safe School reopening, including the strengthening of enrolments and monitoring of dropouts, catch up lessons, WASH and safety educational programs and psychological support for children and teachers.
- In collaboration with Caritas, 80 children living on the streets and unaccompanied children received integrated services, including food, health care, learning and protection and benefited from hygiene interventions.
- UNICEF supported the setup of the social assistance system by Ministry of Social Affairs (MASS) through the transfer of cash to 590 vulnerable households. Each household is receiving a financial allowance over a 3 months period.

Egypt

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Cumulatively and across all the COVID-19 campaigns, nearly 35 million people were reached with RCCE messages, and 1,341,597 people engaged. Specifically, the psychosocial support campaign from end-April to mid-May in partnership with Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and WHO reached an estimated 13 million users and engaged 477,000. Following this, a joint nutrition campaign in partnership with MoHP, WHO and WFP on food safety, household disinfection and healthy nutrition was launched in mid-May and has reached 1.8 million users and engaged 76,000 people so far.
- UNICEF supported the MoHP in providing interactive counselling services on health and nutrition best practices for pregnant and lactating mothers within the COVID-19 context. During the reporting period additional 61,570 families were reached and 17,908 engaged.
- Infographics and 30 mini-master classes on parenting tips during COVID-19 have been produced and disseminated on social media and through selected service providers from the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), MoHP and NGOs.

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

- In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF procured and delivered to the MOHP warehouse an additional 18,000 litres of chlorine (36,000 litres in total), ensuring a sustainable and reliable supply of disinfectants to 2,200 primary health care centres nationwide, with an estimated coverage of 1,760,000 people.
- 551 children in 17 care institutions were provided with hygiene supplies to improve IPC, reaching a cumulative of 3,332 children in 90 care institutions since the COVID-19 response.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- 50,442 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling through social media and community platforms.
- 112,216 women and children received essential health services, including 67,646 children benefited from immunization, postnatal care, and growth monitoring, and 44,570 women benefitted from antenatal care and postnatal care, in areas supported by UNICEF programme.

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

- The final draft of the 'School Guidelines on COVID-19 Infection Prevention' for school reopening was shared with the Ministry of Education (MOETE), UNESCO, World Bank and WFP to seek a coordinated response and consistent support at school level.
- UNICEF conducted the second set of online training of trainers to 30 staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports about the updated skills development manual from the UNICEF's Adolescents & Young People Programme "Meshwary". The first set of online training focused on youth-led initiatives.
- UNICEF and partners provided 66 child protection social workers (Child Helpline-affiliated NGOs and Child Protection Units) with trainings on remote case management in crisis and specialized psychosocial support in Cairo, Sharqiya, and Alexandria.
- About 11,000 children received Psychosocial Support Services messages through Facebook and over 8,500 through WhatsApp;
- 75 cases (53 female) were provided with case management through partnering NGOs providing reintegration and rehabilitation specialized services in Cairo and Alexandria, and 72 were provided with child protection services;²
- 29 children in five targeted governorates (Alexandria, Assiut, Sharqiya, Ismailia, and North Sinai) were provided with remote case management and 32 received support services through the Ministry of Social Solidarity case

² A total of 385 provided with case management and 382 with psychosocial support since the beginning of the response through partnering NGOs providing reintegration and rehabilitation specialized services in Cairo and Alexandria.

management units³. In addition, 422 follow-up calls were conducted with open cases to sensitize them on COVID-19 preventative measures and follow up on their wellbeing.

- 60 staff members from partners have completed trainings on GBV risk mitigation and sexual exploitation and abuse during the reporting period.
- Advocacy efforts, including teleconferences and written communication with key counterparts as well as sharing of global guidance for the release of children in detention were made with the Prosecution Office, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), as well as to put in place preventive measures to stop new detentions while developing alternative measures to detention.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- Since the start of the pandemic, the MoSS has expanded the Takaful and Karama (TKP) to an additional 160 thousand family. UNICEF is playing a key role in the expansion of the program through technical experts embedded in the Ministry and direct advisory to the Ministerial team leading TKP. This is part of a broader expansion of the programme by the government, with UNICEF and WB support, potentially covering 600,000 additional households.
- Under the umbrella of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), UNICEF has developed and proposed structural benchmarks conditionalities on social protection spending to be added in the new IMF emergency loan of 2.8 billion agreed with the Government.
- During the reporting period, one-off humanitarian cash grants were provided to 142 households (cumulative of 272) whose basic rights and living conditions (access to essential goods, education, shelter, health care, etc.) are threatened or disrupted.

Gulf Area (Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF is twinning funds generation with awareness raising for COVID-19 prevention and response. UNICEF's campaign in partnership with social media TikTok has reached more than 2.3 million viewers through a series of Ramadan livestream events from 10 to 24 May. UNICEF supporter - musician Jad Rahbani - as well as several TikTok influencers and celebrities interacted with viewers to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention and to encourage donations for the MENA regional response. Through the Saudi-hosted Gamers Without Borders 6-week online gaming tournament where players compete for a \$10 million charity prize fund and donate prizes to a partner of choice, UNICEF has been promoting key messages and response efforts; and is currently the top recipient, receiving over \$1.5 million to date for the global COVID-19 response plan. Through engagement with leading Gulf medias, the situation of children under COVID-19 and UNICEF's Ramadan fundraising campaign have also been promoted.

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

- **UNICEF in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)** provided technical support and existing guidance documents to the Family Affairs Council as it hosted two live discussions with the Council's child advisory committee. The two sessions tackled coping mechanisms while quarantined at home including the benefits of routines, upholding values and demonstrating kindness in community during the pandemic, and how to navigate extended periods of being online both for school and entertainment. The sessions concluded with discussion on the kinds of support and guidance children need from their parents and caregivers, including need for quality time. This initiative builds on the previous training provided by UNICEF for the child advisory committee on child rights on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- **UNICEF in Qatar** partnered with Silatech, a leading institution in Qatar that supports youth engagement in entrepreneurship and employment in MENA as well as with the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, to carry out a webinar entitled "Economic Challenges for Youth in Arab Region with COVID-19", on the 12th of May. The event was broadcast live and featured UNICEF's expertise on adolescent development. Organizations from all over the MENA region participated in a discussion that addressed complex questions of growing youth unemployment in the MENA region, particularly in view of COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how it is affecting their mental health, disrupting their learning and other areas of their lives. It also looked at opportunities available in the current context and how countries can better engage with youths. Subsequent webinars to discuss how to foster public and private partners partnerships at the country and regional levels to create at scale opportunities for young people.
- **UNICEF in Qatar** participated as panellist and key note speaker together with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, and the Doha International Family Institute, in a webinar organised by the Ministry on 18 May attended by representatives of over 80 civil society organizations. The webinar discussed the impact of COVID-19 on families and children and offered practical tips on safety, wellbeing and protection of children, especially the most vulnerable. Members of the media attended and the event concluded on the need to engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on technical assistance.

Iran

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

³ A total of 131 cases received case management and 276 psychosocial support since the beginning of the response.

- During the reporting period, 18 new online pieces were developed and disseminated through UNICEF's website, Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter, Goodwill Ambassador's social media accounts, as well as local media, reaching more than 1 million people and engaging 646,848.

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

- The last shipment of Personal Protective Items (PPE) was delivered to the Iranian Red Crescent Society warehouse for distribution to provinces. UNICEF conducted a monitoring visit to the hospitals as part of its increase of monitoring of the use and delivery of the PPEs.
- Following a proposal submitted to the EU, UNICEF secured funding for life-saving and diagnostic COVID-19 equipment.

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

- With the partial reopening of schools and the need for a safe school environment, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education is accelerating the reinforcement of national hygiene and sanitation protocols, especially in schools in less-developed areas by providing required supplies and equipment.
- A set-of 12-episode series with Psychosocial Support messages aimed at children was produced. The campaign will continue for six weeks. UNICEF Good Will Ambassador, celebrities and youth community influencers are being mobilized to expand UNICEF engagement and reach.
- UNICEF supports State Welfare Organization (SWO) in the outreach to more than 50,000 children living with disabilities in rehabilitation centres across the country, as well as children without effective care givers living in childcare development centres. A standard package on parenting during/after COVID-19 is being developed in collaboration with SWO and the MoHME.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- Four million households (from the poorest income deciles) have now received emergency government social assistance with amounts ranging between 13 to 40 USD based on household characteristics (women headed households, with disabled child, and other social vulnerabilities).
- UNICEF is planning to provide technical and financial support to roll out a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) for most the vulnerable and at-risk children in Kermanshal Province, which has been affected by the April 2019 earthquake as well as the current COVID-19 pandemic. The objective is to contribute to improvements on the education and nutritional status for 10,000 children via an integrated approach (cash plus messaging/engagement with social service workforce).

Iraq

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF reached 863,000 users and engaged over 387,000 across its platforms with messages on self-care and safe Ramadan practices. The number of Instagram followers surpassed 100,000 during the reporting period, which represents a 210% growth since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, placing UNICEF Iraq in the top 3 recommended pages on both platforms alongside MoH and WHO.
- During the reporting period, messaging was scaled-up. Agreements with two prominent local radio stations, namely Mirbad Radio (southern Iraq) and Brha Radio (Dohuk governorate) were established. A second episode of the interactive Salamatek program was broadcasted live on Al Iraqiya TV channel.
- 154 young people (49 female) in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Baghdad, Basra, Dhi Qar and Diwaniya disseminated health promotion messages on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

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

- A total 9,535 simplified hygiene kits have been procured and delivered to IDPs and refugees, of which 2,030 were delivered to Qushtapa, and 1,900 kits to Kawergosk refugee camps and benefitted 23,580 refugees, while 33,630 IDPs individuals will benefit with the distribution of 5,605 kits are due to be delivered to Jeda'ah camps.
- To respond to a request from UNHCR, the UNICEF Erbil office supported one temporary quarantine center in Laylan 2 camp in Kirkuk with WASH services comprising of the provision of two latrines and two showers. The quarantine centres were established to prevent covid-19 transmission among IDPs in the Laylan 1 camp. As of today, only two families (10 individuals) are in the quarantine center.
- In addition to awareness raising campaigns, dissemination of critical key messages, including public and mobile led screens in hot spot areas a total of (70) public hand washing facilities were provided and installed at health care facilities, local markets and other public places in high risk areas (Al Sadir, Al Bayaa, Zafaraniya, Al Shaab, Al Hurriya and Dora) within Baghdad and Al Iskan quarter in Hilla within Babil governorate. These places are being used by over 150,000 people including around 70,000 children
- In partnership with academic institutions at Kerbala university, 4,500 local produced hand sanitizers have been distributed to (34) PHC centres through 20 hygiene promoters 50% of them are females and benefitting 2,000 health workers and 35,000 clients (individuals).

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- 350 health care workers were provided with PPEs in 50 IDP and refugee camps across the country. PHC services are being delivered through fixed and outreach services (tent to tent).

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

- UNICEF is revising its emergency education response model to better respond to the potential longer-term impacts of COVID-19 including preparedness for the potential school closure due to the second wave preparedness in camps and reopening strategies to implement physical distancing measures
- UNICEF is developing a strategy for blended learning approach to be tried out in 12 IDP schools in Ninewa starting from the summer vacation to benefit 12,615 children (3000 who are out of school). The strategy includes delivery of catch-up classes throughout the summer until the new school year. This considers the new modalities a school may have to adopt in light of safe school operations. If successful, the approach could be adapted to address a number of wider educational challenges in Iraq such as over-crowded classrooms, multiple-shift schools and responding to the needs of specific groups of out of school children. The approach is built on a blended learning model where home-based learning and e-learning are coupled with traditional lessons, supporting pedagogies, catch-up sessions and community learning-facilitation.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoE-KRG to enhance its capacity to deliver learning through the digital platform. The support will include infrastructure (servers) as well as teacher training and expansion of broadcast to other languages (Badini for example) and adding more lessons including targeting pre-school age children.
- UNICEF continues to engage the Government for the release of children in detention. As a result, 103 children (22 girls) were released from detention throughout the country. This brings to a total of 266 (30 girls) who have been released from pre and post-trial detention during this COVID-19 crisis.
- UNICEF continued to work with its implementing partners to provide Psychosocial Supports and Case Management services to vulnerable children during this COVID-19 public health emergency. Due to movement restrictions, service providers used remote delivery using mobile phones where restrictions remain in place and in-person wherever possible. As result 6,436 children (3,010 girls) received Psychosocial Support and case management services.
- UNICEF and its partners with remote engagement through mobile phones reached 332 beneficiaries (83 girls and rest adult women) with Gender Based Violence prevention and response services such as Psychosocial Support and Case Management. Out of the 332 beneficiaries, 106 received case management, including 47 new cases identified through help line or a mobile telephone line.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- The Ministry of Planning completed the registration of beneficiaries for the one-off Emergency Cash Transfer. A total of 2.1 million households (13 million individuals, of which 6.3 million are children) were registered, eligibility assessments completed, and payments started on 21 May.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with: (1) rapid assessment of poverty and vulnerability to identify the target population and the characteristics of the new-poor, and (2) the design of registration platform and modalities for registration and assessing eligibility. UNICEF continues its support to monitor the impact on poverty and children and social welfare worker force to raise awareness among beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention, and to conduct case-management and referrals to enhance the most vulnerable access to services.

Jordan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The national COVID-19 campaign - with UNICEF support - reached close to seven million people through social media platforms, 1.5 million people daily through TV channels, and 3.2 million people through radio stations. An estimated 300,000 vulnerable people were reached through UNICEF and partner's social media platforms as well as promotion by nearly 100 influencers every week. The campaign is focusing encouraging continued adherence to COVID-19 prevention practices after easing of curfew restrictions post Eid.
- In Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps, 698 mothers who lead community hygiene groups and 1,489 community WASH representatives and leaders were engaged to disseminate risk mitigation and hygiene information. In the Rukban settlement at the north-eastern Jordanian border with Syria, 25 incentive-based volunteers were engaged to disseminate messages on water collection and personal hygiene/handwashing risk mitigation measures at water tap stands.

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

- UNICEF procured and delivered 10,000 face shields and 10,000 protective goggles to the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- In Za'atari camp, UNICEF distributed 5,554 soap bars, reaching 8,432 people.
- UNICEF distributed 234 cleaning kits in King Abdullah Park camp, benefiting 600 individuals, and distributed 1,150 kits in the Emirati-Jordanian camp, benefiting 6,502 individuals.
- Through UNICEF's Makani network, more than 10,965 people in 102 Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs) in Mafraq, Irbid, Amman, and Balqa governorates received 1,513 family hygiene kits, 731 small hygiene kits and 2,147 cleaning kits. UNICEF also distributed family hygiene kits to 405 vulnerable Jordanian families in Za'atari town, reaching more than 2,100 people.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Since immunization services resumed on 26 April, which were interrupted during the lockdown, over 80,000 children under the age of 5 were vaccinated at MOH immunization clinics. UNICEF deployed national awareness-raising activities and vaccination efforts in ITs, Dom communities, and remote and hard-to-reach areas where vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees live in host communities, through mobile vaccination teams and in coordination with MOH and IOM. UNICEF also supports the national program for screening newborn children for congenital anomaly. Since the resumption of the screening program after the lockdown, 25,000 newborn children were screened.
- In collaboration with MOH, in May, community health volunteers who are part of a UNICEF-supported community-oriented primary healthcare system strengthening project, delivered medications to 986, 108, and 11,299 beneficiaries in Jerash, Ajloun and Zarqa governorates, respectively.

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

Since the school closure in March, UNICEF has continuously made progress on these activities:

- UNICEF directly supported televising learning contents, broadcasting TV lessons and setting up online learning portals as part of the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s rapid roll-out of distance learning for Grades 1–12 formal education, benefitting an estimated 412,000 children nationwide.
- UNICEF directly supported certified non-formal education distance learning for 46,244 children, by (a) Drop-Out and Catch-Up Programmes (3,593 children), (b) distribution of printed learning materials in refugee camps and informal tent settlements (18,485 children), (c) "Makani" (My Space) Centres in host communities (19,542 children), (d) learning support for children with disabilities (1,261 children), (e) remote learning for KG2 children in host communities (703 children) and (f) through social media education channels (2,660 children). UNICEF also reached 8,000 adolescents and youth through Life Skills Programmes, and 12,953 youth with Life Skills messaging on WhatsApp, supporting about 105 youth-led initiatives to address challenges faced by their communities. Since its launch in mid-March, the "Nahno" online volunteering platform, established by UNICEF and partners, registered 71,449 online engagement opportunities and 43,027 youth volunteering.
- UNICEF and partners re-introduced its national comprehensive entrepreneurship training "Inhad" Programme online, benefitting 835 youths aged 18-24.
- UNICEF, Ministry of Education (MoE) and partners introduced 14 distance learning videos for students as part of the "Nashatiti" (Our Activities) Programme, which combines life skills, social cohesions, sports and arts.

Current priorities of education response:

- UNICEF is providing technical assistance to deliver the MoE's Education During Emergency Plan (EDEP) in the areas of teacher professional development and learning recovery. UNICEF is also supporting the MoE to request donor funding for the Safely Back-to-School Campaign to be included in a national media campaign.
- UNICEF is working to fundraise for solutions that will support learning for the most vulnerable children. They include non-technology solutions for households without regular connection to the Internet, and involve parenting programme, learning materials and facilitators who will offer one-on-one assessments and support. Low-technology solutions will support families and home learning with weekly videos and activities that can be shared on social media. Lastly, the solutions also expand on UNICEF's pilot to bridge the digital gap and support learning for the most vulnerable through tablets, learning platforms, facilitator support and data bundles.
- The UNICEF and UNHCR-supported Child and Family Helpline, operated by the Jordan River Foundation, assisted 1,171 people (76 per cent children, 62 per cent female). Reported protection concerns include domestic violence, abuse, early marriage, online sexual exploitation, missing children, and parenting and relationship concerns.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 curfew, 2,182 children received remote child protection case management support. For life threatening cases. Whenever possible, para case workers carried-out house visits. Case managers contacted Family Protection Department officers to follow-up on sexual abuse cases, and kinship care and referrals were arranged, when necessary.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- As part of the National Aid Fund implemented government emergency cash transfer, an additional (i.e. beyond existing beneficiaries) 200,000 households were supported in registering and opening mobile wallets remotely via UNICEF's Rapidpro SMS platform. To date, over 98 per cent of targeted households have also received payments.
- UNICEF has initiated support to the Government in the development of a new Shock Responsive Social Protection chapter in the National Social Protection Strategy that was developed in 2019 (also with UNICEF support).
- UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP have undertaken an inter-agency rapid needs assessment (RNA) to generate evidence on the impacts of the emergency on household-level basic needs. The assessment covered a broad array of sectors including Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Education, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene and Protection. The assessment is completed and published (<https://www.unicef.org/jordan/reports/multi-sectoral-rapid-needs-assessment-covid-19-jordan>).
- As of May, 30,239 children (have been covered by the UNICEF Hajati cash transfer programme, 18,804 of them will be covered with emergency support payments through a temporary expansion of the programme until August 2020.

Lebanon

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF launched the “U-Report Lebanon” in conjunction with the WHO and Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) “Keefak/Keefik Bil Corona” mental health campaign. It aims to amplify voices of youth and address their concerns during the COVID-19 outbreak using a free and anonymous mobile app. Poll questions are sent out on a weekly basis during the one-month campaign and results will be shared within 5-10 days. Over the first weekend, the campaign reached 2.2 million youth through different social media channels, leading to over 41,000 engagements.
- UNICEF reached 1.5 million people through a new video reinforcing prevention and safety messages around swimming pools given the easing of restrictions.

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

- In response to the cluster of COVID-19 cases in Ras el Nabeh, Beirut, UNICEF distributed 157 disinfection kits including a one-pager guidance in Bengali for migrant workers in the isolated building. UNICEF refilled 45 water tanks (2,000 litre each) in the two isolated buildings in Ras el Nabeh for access to safe water for migrant workers and refugees residing in them. Eight disinfection kits were provided to medical staff monitoring the migrant workers who tested positive and are temporarily quarantined in two hotels.
- UNICEF conducted a vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees that tested positive for COVID-19 in Majdal Anjar, Bekaa, and distributed 5 IPC kits.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF disseminated awareness messages on COVID-19 to 12,931 caregivers (61 per cent Lebanese, 36 per cent Syrians, and three per cent Palestinians). 8,360 people reached through an animated video on social media on nutrition in the context of COVID-19, and 126 pregnant and lactating women received one-on-one counselling on infant and young child feeding practices and COVID-19. 65 pregnant and lactating women were referred to essential maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services at PHCs.
- 741 people crossing borders for trade purposes were screened for COVID-19 and received guidance on prevention and home isolation at the points of entry. Additional 546 Lebanese returnees from Jordan and Syria were tested for COVID-19 at the temporarily opened Aboudiyeh and Masnaa borders, including 184 children. The children were screened and provided with measles and polio vaccines if overdue.
- 384 General Security officers working at the airport were trained on COVID-19 awareness and prevention.
- PPEs including 200 boxes of gloves, 300 protective goggles, 1,640 medical gowns, 1,538 N95 masks, 208 boxes of surgical masks, 10 Infrared (IR) thermometers, 570 bars of soap, 17 bottles of bleach and 700 bottles of hand sanitizers were dispatched to the medical teams at the points of entry; and 60 boxes of gloves, 225 protective goggles, 217 medical gowns, 250 N95 masks, 300 surgical masks, 10 IR thermometers and 750 bottles of hand sanitizers were dispatched to the airport medical teams.

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

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in finalizing the Back-to-School Strategy based on the Global Framework for Reopening Schools. Under this framework, the development of safe operations guidelines with inputs from WHO and the Ministry of Public Health remains a high priority. Work also continues on domains of learning, well-being, protection and reaching the most marginalized.
- A life skills e-learning pilot on leadership was launched for adolescents and youths, using recorded WhatsApp voice messages.
- 60 youth and adolescent from across Lebanon finished four online training sessions on mental health.
- 40 staff from 13 implementing partners participated in the discussion hosted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs on the implementation of the national Social and Behavioural Communication Change Plan and related activities, including on positive parenting and non-violence. The messages are adapted to the current context as schools remain closed and most family members stay at home due to the lockdown.
- UNICEF provides guidance for standards to be in place for appropriate and safe care, prevent separation of children from their families, and for children to receive medical care if needed. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities with child-friendly and gender sensitive supplies for children and women to be provided in isolation centres.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- UNICEF worked with the Government to support the design and distribution of COVID-19 related emergency cash assistance to approximately 120,000 households, including more than 100,000 households with children enrolled in public school.
- With UNICEF (and ILO) support, experts and academics working in the social sectors have now finalised a Position Paper on Social Protection. A roadmap for developing a National Social Protection Response Plan was presented to the Minister of Social Affairs.

Libya

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The national RCCE plan and working group were endorsed by the Presidential Council's Scientific Steering Committee and the Ministry of Health. The RCCE Working Group transitioned to a second phase of emphasis on evidence-based approach with the endorsement of the COVID-19 Rapid Behaviour Assessment and the Knowledge Attitude Practices (KAP) survey study by the Ministry of Health and key partners.
- From 10–26 May, more than 200,000 social media users were reached with COVID-19 posts, including a recent Facebook post on COVID-19 preventive measures during religious gatherings and community events, which reached 25,760 users. UNICEF Libya gained 8,000 new followers across its social media platforms.
- UNICEF continues to support with the development and dissemination of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials. A comprehensive guide for the work of primary healthcare units during COVID has been finalised.
- UNICEF has partnered with the National Centre for Disease Control and the private sector to launch a mobile based application to eliminate queuing and crowding at the banks in different municipalities due to liquidity issues in the country. Prevention messages will be promoted through this application.
- The Child Protection section, together with its partners, reached 6,751 children and caregivers with RCCE messages related to protection.

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

- 156 people have benefitted with sanitation services through dewatering and desludging of wastewater in al-Saraj IDP camp.
- An online IPC WASH training was provided to 20 key WASH stakeholders, including government officials. The IPC training for healthcare workers in UNICEF-targeted municipalities will be prioritized as a next step.
- UNICEF coordinated WASH assessments in 26 sites including health care facilities, detention centres, and IDP settings on needs for the provision of clean and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Around 90% of the assessments are complete and UNICEF's supply team is working on remedial measures for continuation of minimum WASH services in these locations.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- A joint UNICEF-WHO press release was published advocating for the continuity of immunization services following reports of vaccine stockouts. UNICEF is closely monitoring Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance, which faces a real challenge in the reporting of cases, and the collection and transportation of samples to the Pasteur laboratory in Tunisia. The surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases has also been interrupted due to the pandemic, jeopardizing the country's achievements. Sixty cold boxes and 120 vaccine carriers were distributed to 60 health facilities/vaccination sites to bridge the quality gaps in vaccine management⁴.
- The UNICEF team has realigned existing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) support in 26 targeted municipalities for the availability of Essential Health Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Four municipalities were provided with a Maternal, Newborn, and Childcare package and four hospitals received obstetric kits sufficient for approximately 800 deliveries. Ninety-nine primary health care centers were provided with lifesaving essential new-born packages. Two inter-agency emergency health kits were also distributed in one primary health care centre per municipality to meet the essential health needs of approximately 20,000 individuals per municipality for three months.⁵

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

- UNICEF has shared a survey developed by the Ministry of Education (MoE) through social media to gather users' feedback on the national TV lessons. Results will be monitored to gauge access to the broadcasts and students' opinions on its usefulness.
- With UNICEF's support, recording of video materials for TV classes continued, aiming at 900 hours of recording of presentations on key subjects for Grades 1-12.
- UNICEF is coordinating with the Ministry of Education to support the safe reopening of schools, especially through school disinfection, following the government's decision to reopen schools in the West for end-year exams on 14 June.
- 131 partners were trained through online platforms on child protection services during the COVID-19 crisis.
- More than 7,400 individuals were reached by awareness-raising activities, including 655 young girls, women, parents, and caregivers (579 female, 76 male) reached with key child protection messages, better parenting sessions, and information on Gender Based Violence (GBV) protection and prevention; 3,751 individuals were reached in Benghazi through a radio and Facebook campaign on parenting tips during the pandemic; and 3,000 children and caregivers were reached with combined COVID-19 and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messaging.
- Around 1,400 individuals received MHPSS and protection support during the reporting period. 354 boys and girls were reached via online tools with specialized Child Protection and GBV services, including case management and Mental Health and Psycho Social Support (MHPSS), while 96 IDP, migrant, and refugee children from 6 to 12 years old participating in structured PSS sessions in shelters received PSS and education

⁴ Funded through resources and supplies from other funding streams/projects.

⁵ Idem.

materials. More than 950 calls were fielded and MHPSS support was provided where required through 11 helplines activated by UNICEF's national partner, El-Safaa Center, who are providing specialized services to children and families.

[Social Policy and Social Sector Financing](#)

- UNICEF and partners are setting an innovative data collection initiative (Monitoring Children and Families in COVID-19, MCF19) to regularly assess the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the country and the protracted armed conflict. The initiative makes use of existing staff, partners and networks as enumerators to build a sustainable, cost-efficient monitoring mechanism that will have broad geographic coverage as well as a significant sample size. Roll-out is planned for mid-June.

Morocco

[Risk communication and community engagement \(RCCE\)](#)

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to develop a series of videos on COVID-19 prevention and secondary impacts. A national and social media campaign has been launched during the reporting period on nine national public and private TV channels including the most important ones to promote continuity of immunization services for children.
- 20.5 million persons were reached via social media platforms and generated 315,997 engagements. At community level, a total of 3,287 people was reached through community-based interventions targeting most vulnerable populations including migrant and rural communities. 516 feedback cases were addressed in relation to these interventions.
- As part of continuing advocacy including with the Parliament and government, UNICEF and national partners co-organised a press conference for the release of children in detention in view of the COVID-19 outbreaks. More than 12.48 million persons were reached via integrated communication action (TV, radio, web and social media).

[Continuity of health care services for women and children](#)

- UNICEF, in coordination with the Health Cluster, is supporting the MoH to fund and develop specific interventions in the areas of : 1) capacity building and remote training of health workers on nutrition and child health services at PHC level; 2) community health and mobile health interventions for the continuity of SRMNCH services in remote areas; 3) IPC, protection of patients and health workers accessing PHC services, management of PHC solid waste and capacity building on IPC of PHC health workers and MoH staffs, in collaboration with WHO.
- On 17 May, a first shipment of 2,000 COVID19 rapid test has been procured by UNICEF to the Ministry of Health. Another 18,000 are due to arrive in the next month.

[Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services](#)

- UNICEF supported the development and production of 25 Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) online courses for middle school teachers and pupils targeting 1,115,000 students from the 1st of June.
- Preliminary consultations were conducted with partners at national and regional levels for developing a plan to support the safe school reopening. The main actions in 4 regions for UNICEF to support are as follows: 1) rehabilitation of WASH facilities; 2) adapting school management system to facilitate alternating face-to-face teaching and distance learning; 3) provision of hygiene kits including specific items for girls, hydroalcoholic gel dispensers and disinfectant; 4) development of awareness programmes/ kits for children and families, 5) capacity building of teachers and school directors on hygiene and health, and 6) strengthening the capacity of second chance schools on distance learning, psychological support and effective support to return back to schools.
- During the reporting period, 53 migrant families and 77 children on the move benefited from distribution of food and sanitary kits in Tangiers; 27 children on the move continue to receive complete and integrated alternative care support through the pilot centres in Oujda and Tetouan; 19 children on the move and their families benefited from individual follow-up provided by psychologists and/or social workers and distance learning was provided to 24 migrant children.
- 290 children released from detention and other places of deprivation of liberty have benefited from individual follow up and identification of needs thanks to cooperation and coordination between Civil Society Organizations, the Government and the Judiciary. 476 children, family members or social workers involved or in contact with the justice system have received psychosocial support, including through digital platforms and phone calls.
- 550 children, parents and care givers received psychosocial support to cope with fear and isolation and to better care for themselves and support children and 402 vulnerable families received food and goods in Chichaoua and Agadir, through UNICEF partnerships.
- As a result of continuous advocacy efforts by UNICEF, the Public Prosecution Office has published instructions to all prosecutors of the Kingdom on how to implement children rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Social Policy and Social Sector Financing](#)

- As of 21 May, a total of 4.1 million households, including an estimated 3.2 million children, (95% of the targeted 4.3 Million households) have received their first cash transfer through the implementation of a 2-phased

temporary national cash transfer by the Government to those most affected by COVID-19 (those from informal sectors and those who have lost their work or considerable loss of their income).

- The government has now set up an online platform (www.tadamoncovid.ma), as a grievance mechanism, a feature UNICEF advocated for since the launch of the social mitigation response. Nearly 2 million grievances from households from the informal sector. have been recorded. As of May 27, 800,000 complaints have been accepted, 400,000 have been rejected and 800,000 are still under process. Those accepted have received text messages to withdraw their benefits.
- The High Commission for Planning (National Institute of Statistics) has been released in May as the results of the 1st round of a nationally representative survey on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, with the technical support from UNICEF and the World Bank. The results of the surveys will be used to inform the ongoing national response to COVID-19, and include evidence on impacts on health, education, employment, and of the coverage of the early social protection measures taken by the Government of Morocco. With UNICEF support, a second round of data collection is planned for June. This second wave will include specific questions on children well-being in the context of a progressive deconfinement scheduled for 10 June.

Oman

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF launched its 'parents4parents' social media campaign to promote positive parenting such as creative learning, physical and psycho-social engagement of children, online safety and healthy eating.
- UNICEF disseminated messages for the public via its own social media channels and to amplify messages from the Government of Oman to address misinformation. UNICEF's messages were also amplified via government and private sector radio and TV channels. During the reporting period, messages reached more than 80,000 people through UNICEF's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn) and partner amplifications,

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

- The UNICEF-Oman Technology Fund COVID-19 Youth Technology Challenge was launched and is open for applications. The 48-hour hackathon will start on 11 June. The team projects will help young people access online education, skills-building services and employment opportunities.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- In close collaboration with the government, UNICEF is conducting an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and the delivery of social services for children. This is part of the fiscal space analysis to identify possible financing options for improving social services delivery.

The State of Palestine

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- With the easing of movement restrictions after Eid, the RCCE taskforce has shifted its focus on messaging around safe shopping, handling of cash, upcoming high school examinations, prayers and workplace practices. Over 90,000 students and teachers were reached through information material on COVID-19 protective measures to be taken at examination centres. UNICEF distributed gender- and children-sensitive communication materials in 18 quarantine centers in the Gaza Strip, benefiting 2,040 individuals, as well as 2,000 posters and flyers on preventive and protective hygiene practices in in Kufur Aqab town, East Jerusalem.

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

- UNICEF distributed 86,520 bottles of drinking water in 18 quarantine centres in the Gaza Strip, benefitting 4,587 individuals (cumulative data), as well as hygiene kits benefitting 2,040 individuals.
- UNICEF provided e-voucher top-ups for redeeming hygiene items⁶ at local shops for 18,014 vulnerable families below the poverty line in Gaza Strip during May, benefitting 108,084 Individuals.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are in the process of finalizing the review and evaluation of bids for both waste management supplies and medical supplies as support to the MoH, on the continuity of WASH services.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In face of the closure of 23 clinics from the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF continued to coordinate the Nutrition Technical Working Group under the Health Cluster and leveraged its partners' resources to fill the nutrition service gaps.
- UNICEF through a local partner has reached 19 children with severe acute malnutrition treatment in the Gaza Strip during the reporting period.

⁶ Families may choose to redeem the most needed hygiene items such as soap, disinfection solution, detergent for laundry and cleaning dishes, toilet rolls, shampoo, and women hygiene-sanitary disposal pads. These items can be obtained at specific shops and families will also receive information on these items as well as additional health and hygiene messages.

- In the Gaza Strip and through a UNICEF partner, 1,650 high risk pregnant and lactating women and 450 children accessed continued essential health and nutrition care services, including counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- In the West Bank 2,504 boxes of hydrocortisone medication were released to the MoH, benefiting around 1,000 patients with acute and chronic respiratory illnesses in the health facilities.

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

- According to the monitoring mechanism established by UNICEF and an implementing partner, 15 per cent of children in public schools (127,453 children) have accessed the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s e-learning platform. With UNICEF's direct support, an additional 12,326 adolescents continued to access life skills education through another online platform DEAL⁷.
- A working group on distance learning was established with MoE and UNESCO. UNICEF is technically engaged and seeking to use this opportunity to develop long-term solutions.
- A study on the impact of COVID-19 on the education system was commissioned by the MoE with UNICEF providing technical input to the research design framework with a focus on identifying vulnerabilities amongst different population groups.
- UNICEF, as a co-chair for the Education in Emergencies Thematic Working Group, coordinated a meeting on the joint framework for the preparation for Back-to-School and presented the global framework on school reopening. The next step is to develop an operational plan taking into consideration all pillars of the global framework on safe operations, learning, inclusiveness, wellbeing and protection.
- At the request of the MoE, UNICEF adapted the global guidelines for safe school operations focusing on enabling children's safe return to schools and learning.
- The Grade 12 students returned to school on 30 May for their examinations. UNICEF support focused on safe operations through provision of cleaning materials and thermometers for adequate for physical distancing.
- Fifty-eight children reported sexual abuse and exploitation through helpline services supported by UNICEF. The children were followed up with child protection services.
- In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF through partners reached 260 vulnerable people (including 152 children) with psychosocial and protection services, including case management, group and individual counseling, life skills education, child parent interaction and expressive arts.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF through partners reached 282 people (including 186 children) with remote child protection interventions including psychosocial support. 550 children continue to receive remote remedial education and 330 children continue to receive alternative care support.

Sudan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Approximately 25 million people have been engaged and reached with accessible information on COVID-19 prevention and access to services.
- Information on COVID-19 was shared through more than twenty electronic newspapers, thirteen daily newspapers, and through WhatsApp to 3,949 media personnel and television reporters including thirty television channels (national and international).
- Roving megaphones were used to spread awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response in 435 hotspot areas, reaching approximately half million people on a weekly basis.

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

- In support of the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response, UNICEF Sudan procured and shipped 14.25 metric tons of personal protective equipment (PPEs), and the first batch of 10.78 metric tons arrived in Khartoum on 23 May along with 20 oxygen concentrators for Isolation facilities. The PPEs will be distributed to health centres and isolation centres across the country. The PPEs distributed so far include:
 - 5,525 medical gowns; 320 heavy duty gloves; 5,525 face masks.
 - Four Isolation/health centres across the country with the capacity of 480 current and expected COVID-19 caseload and medical staff were supported with water supply facilities.
 - 3,300 South Sudanese Refugees in East Darfur State have been reached with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion, social distancing and handwashing soap distributions.
 - 11,500 community members in 2,500 household in newly approached sites were supported with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion and chlorine tablets and handwashing soap distribution.
 - 300,000 COVID-19 lockdown affected vulnerable households in Khartoum State were supported with 592,740 handwashing soap bars as a part of WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR food basket interventions.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

⁷ DEAL: Digital Entrepreneur Adolescent Leadership is a teaching and learning method that uses gamification and promotes life skills such as creativity, problem solving and critical thinking amongst learners.

- UNICEF is supporting the Khartoum State Ministry of Health to maintain one hundred primary health care facilities out of 633 facilities representing 16%, this also include 33 Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTP) which provide services to 1,912 children with SAM in one quarter.
- UNICEF is prepositioning supplies to respond to floods and potential disease outbreaks (cholera, dengue, chikungunya etc.) during the rainy season, as these remain a threat to the lives of Sudanese children and their family members;
- There is a drop in annualized routine vaccination coverage by 8% compared to last year (69% in 2020 compared to 77% in 2019) up to end of March 2019. This raises the risk of Vaccine Preventable Disease outbreaks. Currently there is an increased trend of measles cases in 2 localities in Kassala state, work is in progress to start a response to prevent a wider measles outbreak .In most of the States the routine fixed vaccinations are continuing as planned, however there are a number of Public Health Centre facilities which are closed, and thus routine vaccination has stalled.
- UNICEF together with WFP, and WHO supported the FMOH to finalize a series of capacity building sessions to promote the continuity of lifesaving nutrition services under COVID-19 The sessions were successfully delivered during the reporting period, and 216 service providers from OTPs, Stabilization centres (SCs) and Isolation centres benefited from the training in Khartoum state.
- In White Nile State, UNICEF provided PHC kits, 10 IMCI kits, 10 AWD renewable kits, 10 AWD equipment's kits, 15 AWD community kits to support state capacity for delivery of continued health services and for preparation for any future AWD outbreak as the state is prone to such outbreaks.

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

- UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of Education developed lesson plans for Grade 8 and Grade 11 examinations to be rolled out over the next weeks.
 - Around 300 children, parents and caregivers were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support.
 - Around 10,220 children (300 for the reporting period) without parental care were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.
 - With UNICEF support, a total number of 749 children in contact with the law have been released from detention centres in the different states of Sudan.
- [Social Policy and Social Sector Financing](#)
- The Ministry of Social Development has distributed around 65,000 food packages to the most vulnerable families during Ramadan. UNICEF, thanks to its partners, has mobilised enough funding to support the procurement of 30,000 of the 65,000 packages.

Syria

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- An estimated 9.4 million people have been reached so far through television and radio awareness campaigns and two million with printed information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
- More than 6 million people have been reached through social media. Other channels, including the Smart Card/Takamol application and online interactive quizzes, are also being utilized to inform and engage the public to continue prevention behaviours. Direct awareness raising through teams at distribution centres and door-to-door visits continues, as does UNICEF's support to the Ministry of Awqaf to engage 1,000 religious leaders working in 3,600 mosques. Church networks are also being utilized, with 14 educational and religious centers and nine volunteer groups mobilized to engage in prevention and promotion efforts including through the use of 29 WhatsApp groups.
- UNICEF, working with WHO and partners, has finalized new communication materials for children utilizing age-appropriate, entertainment education approaches to promote prevention practices.

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

- UNICEF continues to engage with other actors in strengthening IPC in healthcare facilities, schools and learning spaces, youth centres and communities, through the implementation of protocols, distribution of supplies, rehabilitation of WASH facilities and capacity building. UNICEF is supporting light rehabilitation of WASH systems in 15 healthcare facilities (potentially to be used as quarantine or isolation centres): two of them have been fully rehabilitated, while work is ongoing in the remaining 13 facilities.
- UNICEF continued delivering WASH services, supporting the operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure (including disinfectants) across the country. During this reporting period, and through UNICEF support, the construction of WASH facilities continues at the designated isolation centres in Areesha and Mahmoudli camps (with a combined population of 4,600 households). Additionally, UNICEF supported access to safe water supply through installation of 19 water tanks, and separately the provision of 1,751 family hygiene kits – both covering 9,429 IDPs in Idlib.
- UNICEF supported access to safe water supply through installation of 75 water tanks in Idlib and the provision of 7,402 family hygiene kits benefiting 36,000 people living in 36 camps and informal settlements. Over 25,000 people were also reached with awareness raising sessions in 14 camps of the northwest.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF continued supporting the provision of training on IPC for partners nationwide and is procuring PPE for the overall health sector, covering 10 per cent of sector needs (about 300,000 PPEs distributed).
- Additionally, a total of 108 health facility staff were trained on IPC during the reporting period.
- Guidelines on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and wasting simplified protocols in the context of COVID-19 were disseminated in all governorates. UNICEF also continued to enhance the community surveillance system for acute malnutrition in the absence of mobile team activities (particularly in camps) by conducting one-on-one training on MUAC measurements for children. The pilot training is planned to include 150 mothers with children under 5 years.

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

- In the Northwest, 17,860 boys and girls from 40 schools and temporary learning spaces were supported with accelerated learning education sessions through WhatsApp. Also, 13,588 children and their parents received awareness raising messages on the importance of home-based learning.
- The distribution of 400,000 recreational books for children living in areas with low connectivity is ongoing in the entire country.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoE's efforts in re-opening of schools in September, where approximately 5,000 school are targeted for the safe school protocol roll-out.
- UNICEF continued to promote the safe engagement of young people in various activities (such as
- 7,405 young people were engaged through various activities such as distribution of IEC materials, promotion of physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and promoting digital challenges and surveys around Covid-19). A survey on the Voices of Youth-Arabic platform reached 4,340 people, gathering 701 engagements and 277 responses by youth. Total 18,142 people were reached through various social media networks.
- UNICEF in cooperation with partners is printing 300,000 copies of 'My hero is you'⁸, a fictional book developed by and for children to help families understand and cope with COVID-19 to be delivered by the end of May.
- UNICEF jointly with WHO conducted remote training of 175 case workers on remote case management, psychosocial support, PSEA and gender-based violence. In the northwest, online psychosocial support reached over 4,000 children.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- UNICEF is working with partners and donors to expand its ongoing cash transfer programme for basic needs which reached so far 54,200 vulnerable households with emergency cash assistance and vouchers.

Tunisia

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- As of 28 May, a total of 65 COVID 19 related communication materials have been produced and disseminated through various communication channels (TV, radio, digital and urban display). UNICEF Tunisia social media platforms reached a total of 20,4 million impressions (Facebook: 16 068 800 impressions, Instagram 4 277 176, Twitter 34 936, LinkedIn 6193, website 8 653 user sessions).

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

- In support of the safe reopening of day-care centres since May 25th, UNICEF launched the procurement of 150 WASH institutional kits so that IPC protocols are properly upheld. This activity will benefit approximately 10 000 children.
- The National WASH Committee and UNICEF are developing guidelines and communication material to raise awareness on good hygiene practices among schools and other centres hosting children. The target for this activity is still under discussion with the Ministry of Education.
- UNICEF is supporting the reopening of schools for the fall of 2020, through the development of a comprehensive safe hygiene promotion package for students, teachers and other education personal as well as a hygiene promotion training programme and protocols.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In coordination with WHO, UNICEF keeps providing support to the Ministry of Health to revise its National Response Plan according to the epidemiological developments of the COVID19 pandemic in Tunisia. UNICEF technical support to the Ministry of Health led to the resuming of routine immunisation within 50% of community health centres across Tunisia.

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

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/my-hero-you>

- UNICEF, World Bank, UNESCO and WFP shared the “Framework for reopening schools” with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in order for safety and protection measures to be considered while developing the protocols with the Ministry of Health.
- In reopening more than 500 schools for one month in June and for the following examinations, UNICEF supported the MoE with the procurement of 2,000 non-contact thermometers for the safety of education personnel and about 220,000 students (Grades 6, 9 and 12).
- UNICEF has established a partnership with Soft Skills Tunisian Association, a local CBO to raise awareness among approximately 20,000 adolescents about life skills and engage them in activities reinforcing their skills to better cope with the current situation.
- Another partnership was finalized with Youth Initiative Tunisia/ Sharek, a start-up, to support around 650 vulnerable children with ICT devices and internet connection to increase their access to online learning.
- Between 25 April and 25 May, 826 child related cases were reported to the hotline established with UNICEF and the private sector. 780 of those cases concerned psychological problems such as anxiety, sleep problems, impulsive and violent behaviour. 321 cases included violence against children. More than half of those cases have been verified by the Child Protection Delegate.
- UNICEF is helping national partners with the drafting of SOPs for multisectoral coordination and availing referral support to children victim of violence / vulnerable during the COVID-19.
- UNICEF hosted, with GIZ and DCAF, a webinar on “Children placed in rehabilitation centers” with a total of 60 participants from different governmental institutions.
- [Social Policy and Social Sector Financing](#)
- UNICEF is currently working on mobilizing resources to support the Ministry of Social Affairs’ social mitigation measures to be more child sensitive. The envisaged cash transfer programme is planned to be rolled out for the remaining of 2020, and to target with monthly top-up approximately 130 000 children living in poor and vulnerable households registered in the national social protection registry, in line with the Universal Child Grant as per the draft social protection floor bill. The project aims to mitigate the immediate and medium-term impacts of the crisis on school attendance, immunization and nutrition while waiting for the implementation of the budget support for the social protection sector designed by the Ministries of Finance, Social Affairs and Development Cooperation and Planning with the World Bank, JICA, the EU, KfW and AfDB.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the World Bank and the Ministry of Social Affairs, supported a panel phone survey to monitor the implementation of the social mitigation measures and the socio-economic impacts of the crisis on households’ beneficiaries of cash transfers. The first wave of data collection is expected to be done during the first week of June 2020.

Yemen

[Risk communication and community engagement \(RCCE\)](#)

- An estimated 16 million people have been reached through public service announcements, message flashes, discussion programmes, and live phone-in programmes. The Ramadan drama series “Sad Al Ghareeb” was aired on two TV channels reaching an estimated 5 million people as well being viewed 10 million times on social media platforms where an average of 2000 comments were received for each episode.
- About 10 million cumulative views of COVID-19 posts, cards, and videos published on different social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, have been recorded. UNICEF partners continued sending COVID-19 SMS and voice messages to 13,500,000 subscribers over the four telecommunication networks.
- Religious leaders have continued awareness sessions, cumulatively reaching 3.6 million people in about 5000 mosques, in addition to 120,600 people reached through WhatsApp groups.
- 409 mobile cars have mounted with public address systems continued awareness activities reaching an estimated 8 million people predominantly in communities with poor access to mass media. Some mobile cars were also used for two-way engagement, reaching 20,600 people.
- About 720 calls were received during this period through radio phone-in programmes on 12 radio stations where health professionals answered callers’ questions and addressed their concerns on COVID-19.
- A survey was conducted through the Ministry of Endowment to assess the practice of physical distancing in 951 mosques in Amanat Alsemah. The results showed that physical distancing was fully practiced in 38% of mosques and not practiced in 49% of the mosques. The remaining mosques had physical distancing at the back but crowding in the front rows. Further qualitative interviews are planned with people to better understand attitudes and behaviours around physical distancing.

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

- UNICEF provided 80 tents to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) for quarantine centers in Marib-Shabwa-Laji-Aden and Taiz governorates, and 18 kept as contingency stock in Aden. By the end of May 2020, 59 schools were reported as utilized as quarantine centers in the whole country.

[Continuity of health care services for women and children](#)

- 1,528 health workers have been reached in the south and the north on RCCE engagement, IPC and continuity of basic services in the context of COVID-19. So far child health services are still ongoing with no interruption, yet, there is minor reduction in number of consultations reported in general for all health facilities (5% in the last six weeks compared to same period in 2019). Maternal Newborn Child Health and EPI services also show a slight reduction but efforts are ongoing for the continuity of the services by prepositioning routine supplies, COVID PPE stocks, orientation of staff on preventive measures and early identification and referral of patients with symptoms of COVID -19 .
- Nutrition services at community, PHCs and referral to Therapeutic Feeding Centres are ongoing in the COVID-19 context with all the preventive measures with continuous orientation of CHNVs and community-based health workers. 2759 children had Vit A supplementation and 15,285 children were admitted for SAM treatment during April.
- Some mobile teams were suspended by the local health authorities until IPC measures are in place and health workers are trained on COVID-19. The utilization rate of the Severe Acute Malnutrition management and Infant Young Child Feeding services has decreased slightly over March April compared to last year. The fear from attending to health facilities, restriction of movement in some areas, and the low reporting rates from HFs are the key reasons behind the reduced utilization.
- Nutrition activities on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions are as follows: Mid Upper Arm Circumference screening campaigns, vitamin A campaigns, SMART surveys and training activities.
- UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health and Population, WFP and nutrition cluster partners have finalized the national adaptive guidelines for CMAM, IYCF-E and CHVs programs in context of COVID 19. The main objectives are to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission among the beneficiaries and health workers. CMAM programs will adapt the expanded cutoff of MUAC for children aged 2 – 5 years to be less than 125 mm for SAM program and less than 135 for MAM program. CHVs role has been adapted including discontinuation of growth monitoring and promotion, fewer home visits per day and visits to be conducted outside the houses. A comprehensive SOP for Mobile Teams providing integrated H&N services in IDP camps and hard to reach areas has been developed with solid precautionary measures.

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

- UNICEF in support of the Minister of Education (MoE) facilitated the development of a National COVID-19 Education Response Strategy (Plan A) final draft is under final review for endorsement by the MoE.
- COVID-19 awareness-raising video was uploaded on the Education TV in Aden for broadcasting.
- The Education Cluster and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) are jointly working on increased collaboration, development of guidelines and critical messages on new education response modalities.
- Cash disbursements reached 98% of the targeted 2,163 rural female teachers in the second half of May, providing them with salaries for January and February 2020. UNICEF requested service providers to implement multiple protective physical distancing measures for both beneficiaries and payment agents during the cash disbursement process.

Social Policy and Social Sector Financing

- Cash disbursements (salaries for January and February 2020) reached 98 percent of targeted 2,163 Rural Female Teachers in the second half of May 2020. UNICEF requested service providers to implement multiple protective social distancing measures for both beneficiaries and payment agents during the cash disbursement process.

Coordination

UNICEF Regional Office (MENARO) and UNICEF Country Offices across the MENA region 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 in the response.

The inter-agency Eastern Mediterranean/MENA RCCE Working Group led by WHO, UNICEF and IFRC has been formally recognized and included within the global RCCE coordination structure. A regional RCCE framework and guidelines for marginalized and vulnerable populations has been developed.

MENARO started a regional training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) targeting UNICEF staff in the field, government counterparts and implementing partners. The training witnessed a wide participation with over 85 participants. MENARO is updating a previously conducted mapping of measures and activities implemented by governments and partners in response to COVID-19 at country level. This update will feed into an analysis that will inform the development of a response framework, advocacy materials and shaping post COVID-19 policy work.

Together with WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO), UNICEF MENA Regional Office has conducted a joint webinar on Maternal and Newborn Health care and services for WHO and UNICEF Country Offices to update on the current evidence and guidance in the context of COVID-19 and for the continuity of care/ services for pregnant women, mothers and newborns.

UNICEF - in collaboration with the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (AIMJF) - conducted two global webinars with practitioners on access to justice for children in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinars created a platform for practitioners to share innovative solutions for the release of children of children from detention and for the continuity of justice for children services.

Advocacy and Partnerships

UNICEF continues regionally and at country level to advocate for the strengthening and expansion of social protection systems that include children from families affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. It also includes a shift on shaping medium term social responses such as going beyond one-off transfers (as currently planned in Iraq) to supporting expanded and more inclusive government emergency cash transfer in Lebanon.

At regional and country office levels, UNICEF continues to engage mobile network operators (MNO) to support the realization of the rights of every child in the region, including the acceleration of the work on RCCE, remote learning and support the delivery of cash transfers. Under the coordination of UNICEF MENARO, three mobile operators are being engaged for multi-country partnerships, while partnerships at country level are being further developed or expanded. The partnerships are being developed in line with the four pillars of UNICEF regional accelerators: 1) addressing violence against children, especially in homes, schools and institutions, 2) improving adolescent girls' and boys' skills, learning and employability right from early childhood, 3) expanding social protection national systems to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerabilities, 4) scaling up UNICEF's specific programmatic response to the climate crisis.

Advocacy continues with the different governments and authorities in the region to follow up on UNICEF's plea to release all children in detention. About 2,800 children deprived from liberty in 13 countries of the region were released since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic. In 7 countries children avoided pre-trial detention due to measures reinforcing the use of alternatives to detention. Challenges remain for their reintegration, due to a reduced social worker numbers and their ability to access families due to movement restriction, the availability of face-to-face services to deal with serious child protection cases. Release measures also often do not equally benefit children in immigration detention and those detained in the context of national security. UNICEF MENA – at country and regional levels- will continue to advocate for all children to be released from detention wherever they are across the region.

External Media

STATEMENTS

[من المرجح تفاقم أزمة الغذاء في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا مع استمرار "كوفيد-19"](#)

[Food crisis likely to worsen in the Middle East and North Africa as COVID-19 continues](#)

[Brief: Joint statement on nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic in MENA](#)

PRESS RELEASES

[UNICEF reaches nearly 150 million people with information on COVID-19 across the Middle East and North Africa](#)

[إخليك بالبيت كمان شوي وبكرة أحلى!](#)

[#stayhome, just for a bit longer](#)

[استغلال الشمس للحفاظ على اللقاحات باردة](#)

[Using the sun to keep vaccines cool](#)

[تصل اليونيسف إلى حوالي 150 مليون شخص بالمعلومات الصحيحة حول "كوفيد-19" في مختلف أنحاء الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا](#)

[EU's contribution of USD2.8 million provided relief to Iraqi children in emergency camps](#)

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

[Bringing learning to home through education television](#)

[Displaced families #stayhome to protect themselves against COVID-19](#)

RESOURCES

[UNICEF Middle East and North Africa website](#)

[Regional RCCE Multimedia Assets](#)

[UNICEF MENA COVID-19 Situation Report No.4](#)

[UNICEF Global COVID-19 Situation Report No. 5](#)

[موجز: بيان مشترك حول التغذية في ظلّ جائحة كورونا في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا](#)

Main COVID-19 page:

Resource mobilisation

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa received US\$ 34 Million out of US\$ 287 Million required to support partners' efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through provision of critical supplies and adequate health care and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. Funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus. To meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF country offices have reallocated some flexible funds from regular resources to kick start the prevention activities and procure urgent emergency supplies.

For further information on UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Response:

https://www.unicef.org/appeals/Novel%20Coronavirus_sitreps.html

Funding Status*

Country	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Algeria	\$1,405,000	\$428,000	\$977,000	70%
Djibouti	\$7,935,000	\$1,241,859	\$6,693,141	84%
Egypt	\$30,916,000	\$2,661,366	\$28,254,634	91%
Iran	\$17,210,970	\$3,052,541	\$14,158,430	82%
Iraq	\$11,837,000	\$1,323,452	\$10,513,548	89%
Jordan	\$22,709,753	\$1,674,583	\$21,035,170	93%
Lebanon	\$58,902,507	\$2,456,627	\$56,445,880	96%
Libya	\$16,100,000	\$143,000	\$15,957,000	99%
Morocco	\$5,070,000	\$1,472,227	\$3,597,773	71%
Oman	\$360,000	\$0	\$360,000	100%
State of Palestine	\$16,065,645	\$4,618,876	\$11,446,769	71%
Sudan	\$24,535,000	\$4,260,782	\$20,274,218	83%
Syria	\$30,581,925	\$7,900,952	\$22,680,973	74%
Tunisia	\$8,100,000	\$1,006,900	\$7,093,100	88%
Yemen	\$33,453,340	\$649,800	\$32,803,540	98%
MENARO	\$1,906,000	\$1,170,934	\$735,066	39%
Total	\$287,088,140	\$34,061,899	\$253,026,241	88%

* As defined in the Humanitarian Appeal of 12/05/2020 for a period of 9 months. Funds Available are as of 31/05/2020. In addition to above funding received against the HAC, \$ 543,338 DFID general contribution towards COVID-19 related response for the State of Palestine were added to the existing grant (COVID19-related top up to the grant coded with HAC State of Palestine) and \$ 369,569 DFID general contribution towards COVID-19 related response for Jordan were added to the existing grant. US\$ 88,860 European Commission amendment to the existing grant (use of contingency funds) will be used by the Morocco office for the COVID-19 response.

Next SitRep: 15 June 2020

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Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Programme Response Targets	2020 target*	Total UNICEF results	Results in the reporting period ▲ ▼
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	238,970,000	162,797,090	23,624,724
Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	39,055,000	14,354,605	4,776,398
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	2,375,000	402,815	79,804
Infection Prevention Control (IPC)/ WASH			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	11,377,274	5,998,610	602,822
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	86,905	40,060	10,026
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	21,074	4,207	91
Continuity of essential health and nutrition services			
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	17,550	4,738	52
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	7,462,158	2,310,910	827,139
Number of caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID through national communication campaigns	3,965,670	1,225,004	456,859
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	665,400	93,278	38,314
Continuity of education, child protection, social protection and gender-based violence services			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	9,716,602	851,668	390,378
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	31,766	N/A	N/A
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	19,062	11,256	96
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	725,323	176,599	31,424
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	3,434	1,399	232
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	197,450	62,786	(105) ⁱ
Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19	283,650	63,499	54,225

Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	9,487,000	4,723,409	325,590
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*Targets are as of 29 May 2020.

ⁱ This is due to the adjustments to the previous reported figure.