



Handwashing facility in school at Jhang, Punjab province

# Pakistan COVID-19 Situation Report No. 17



Reporting Period: 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (fortnightly)

## Key Highlights

- During this period COVID-19 cases remained steady with an average 463 new cases in a day.
- Heavy monsoon rainfall has caused flooding and damages across the country particularly in Sindh and KP provinces.
- More than 670,900 people (37,696 new) reached through social media with UNICEF support.
- Using WASH sector communication networks, over 22.1 million (1.5 million new) people reached with COVID-19 hygiene promotion messages with UNICEF reached 7.9 million (312,598 new).
- Over 1.86 million people (258,826 new) benefitting from continuity of primary health care services at UNICEF supported health facilities.
- With UNICEF support 77,550 children have been treated for SAM (9,840 new) and 100,572 mothers/caregivers reached through inter-personal communication on IYCF practices.

## Situation in Numbers

**302,424** Confirmed cases

**290,261** Recovered cases

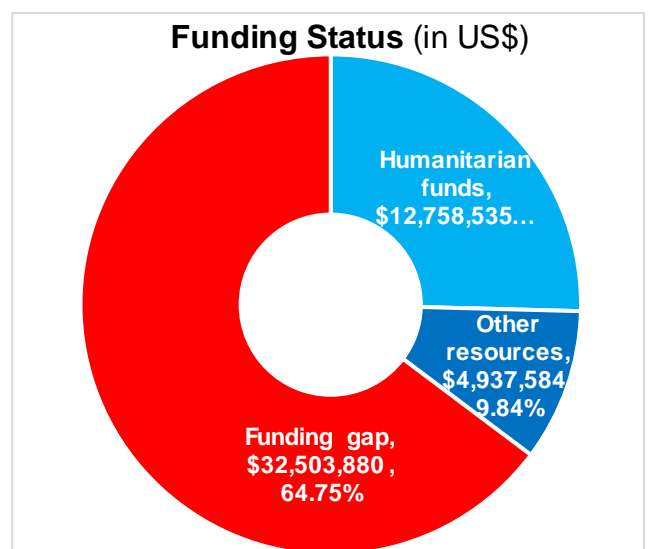
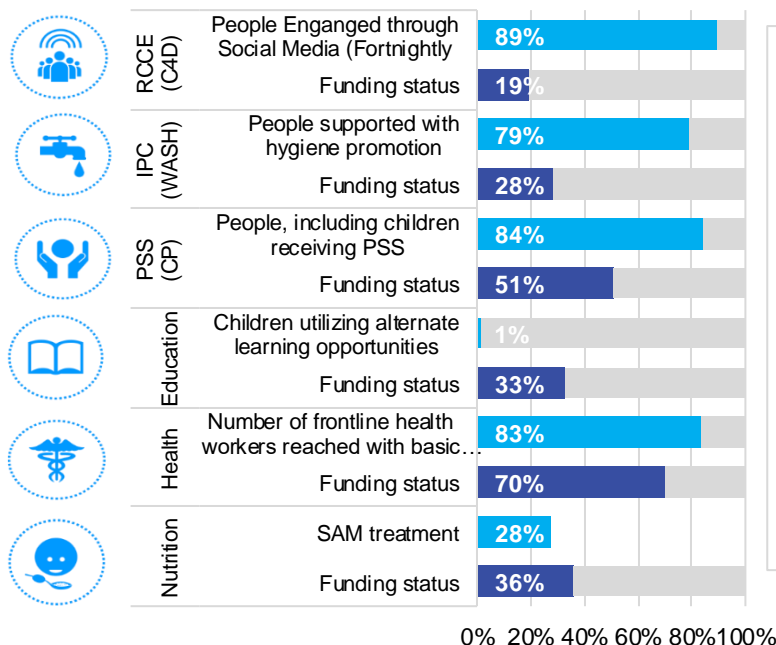
**6,389** Deaths

Source: <http://COVID.gov.pk/>

Date of report: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**UNICEF Appeal for  
COVID-19 Preparedness  
and Response  
US\$ 50.2 million**

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



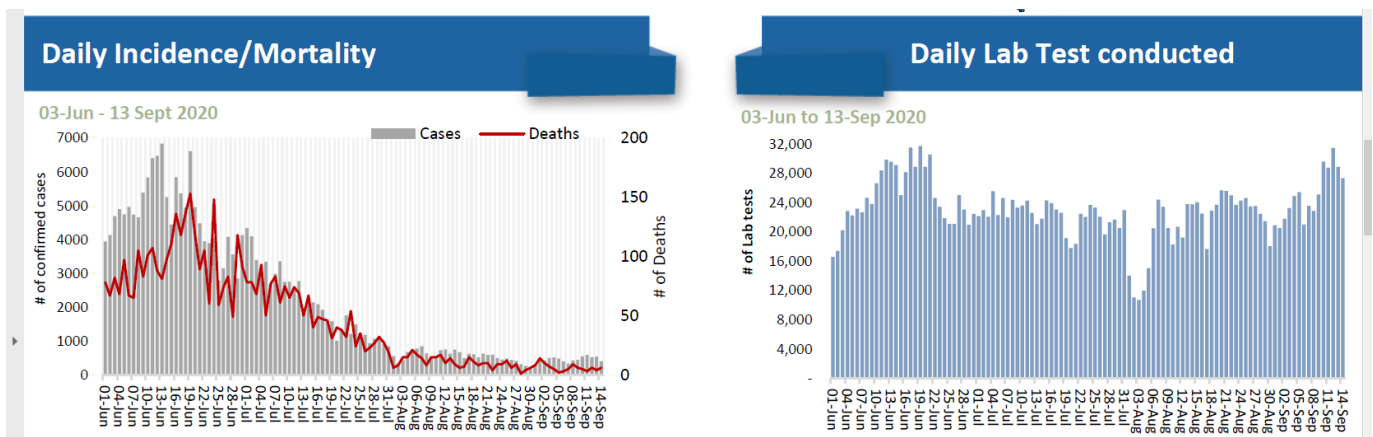
## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

As of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, there are 302,424 confirmed coronavirus cases, with Sindh being the most affected province with 132,250 cases, followed by Punjab with 97,817 cases and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 37,079 cases. Of the total number of confirmed cases, 6,389 patients have died and 290,261 have fully recovered from the disease and have been discharged from the hospital.

Provinces				Administrative Areas			Total
Balochistan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	Punjab	Sindh	Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)	Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)	Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)	
13,621	37,079	97,817	132,250	2,426	3,269	15,962	302,424

The tables below show the daily COVID-19 incidence and daily mortality in Pakistan as of 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and the daily number of COVID-19 tests<sup>1</sup>: The average total cases in a day between 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September is 463 new cases. The average number of daily cases reported has overall remained steady since September beginning, while showing a slight decrease at the beginning of second week of September 2020. The number of COVID-19 deaths has shown a slight decrease for the period. On the same note, the number of daily lab tests conducted for COVID-19 have steadily increased over the reporting period.

Based on the WHO situation report, as of 15<sup>th</sup> September, Pakistan has conducted 2,995,890 laboratory tests, of which 302,424 were positive. A total of 1,009 cases have been admitted in hospitals; 290,261 (95.97 per cent) have recovered and discharged, 563 are in critical condition and there were 6,389 deaths with the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 2.11 per cent.



## NATIONAL COORDINATION

The National Security Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, established a National Coordination Committee (NCC), to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy to stop the transmission of the virus and mitigate its consequences. The NCC designated the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) as the leading operational agency. In each province the Chief Ministers have convened task forces to coordinate the response, with the Provincial Disaster Management Agencies (PDMA) as the leading provincial operational agency. Furthermore, the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has been activated as an Incident Command and Control Hub.

Government of Pakistan initiated Ehsaas Emergency Cash (social protection) on the 9<sup>th</sup> April and as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, PKR 178.63 billion (US\$ 1,076 million) has been distributed reaching more than 14.77 million people<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> WHO Sitrep as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.pass.gov.pk/ecs/uct\\_all.html](https://www.pass.gov.pk/ecs/uct_all.html)

The Polio Programme is providing support for the COVID-19 response, especially in the areas of surveillance, data management, communication and logistics management.

## UN COORDINATION

The UN in Pakistan has established a Crisis Management Team (CMT) comprising of: WHO; UNICEF; WFP; UNHCR; UNFPA; IOM; UNOCHA; UNDP; DSS and the RC which meets every Tuesday. Currently, UN agencies, including UNICEF, are working on finalizing the sectoral plans for the Global Humanitarian Response Plan being coordinated by OCHA and lead by sector lead agencies. UNICEF COVID-19 Task Force meeting now holds every Tuesday and Friday morning, and UNICEF SitRep on COVID-19 is now issued twice monthly.

## UNICEF's Response

UNICEF Pakistan has updated its multipronged response strategy to bring additional focus to high burden areas affected by COVID-19 and focus on three key areas (1) public health response to COVID-19, (2) continuity of essential services and (3) mitigation of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. The key strategies include:

### Public health response to COVID-19

- **Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)** to provide timely and accurate information to families and communities and promote behaviour to reduce risk and limit transmission.
- **Infection prevention and control (IPC)** through (a) Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) support to targeted primary health facilities, quarantine and isolation centres and in the communities and (b) protection of frontline health workers.
- **Procurement services** in support of the Government to ensure timely sourcing and availability of quality essential medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Psychosocial support (PSS)** to ensure children and families of cases and contacts affected by COVID-19 are provided with appropriate care and psychosocial support, and for stigma prevention.

### Continuity of essential services

- **Continuity of education and learning** to ensure teachers, parents and students are informed about COVID-19, continuity of learning and facilitate safe reopening of schools and learning education institutions.
- **Building resilient primary healthcare system** for managing mild cases and referral of severe cases with the aim to strengthen primary healthcare (PHC) system and ensure continuity of life saving basic health services like MNCH and immunization.
- **Essential nutrition support for vulnerable children and families** with the aim to ensure access to promotional, preventive and curative nutrition services to people affected by and people at risk of Coronavirus infection, with a focus on nutrition vulnerable groups.

### Mitigation of the impact of COVID-19

- **Advocacy** through (a) parliamentary engagement on child sensitive budgeting; (b) national and provincial advocacy, including joint advocacy with other UN agencies and partners, in support of the COVID-19 socio-economic impact framework and plan, and (c) implementation of the UNICEF Pakistan Advocacy plan 'Response and Recover' to COVID-19
- **Evidence generation** on (a) multi-dimensional child poverty analysis to influence policy action and allocations, (b) development of Nutrition Sentinel Surveillance system to provide routine information on nutrition and inform policy and programme action and (c) VAC study to identify and respond to violence against children due to the COVID-19 response,
- **Systems Development:** (a) Continuing engagement in the finalization of the Universal Health Benefit Package and tools that are COVID-19 sensitive, (b) Education sector analysis and planning, (c) provision of alternative care for children without parental / family care and (d) positioning of civil registration and vital statistics (CVRS) in the context of COVID-19
- **Social Protection:** Technical / advisory support (studies) to the emergency cash transfer scheme on children to inform medium term policy action on child-sensitive social protection programme in Pakistan.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### 1. Risk Communication and Community

**Coordination:**

The UNICEF C4D team continued to provide leadership, coordination, and technical support to the Ministry of Health and its RCCE partners. This includes coordination of the 25<sup>th</sup> UN-RCCE task force meeting, composed of 8 UN agencies, as well as co-facilitating the weekly RCCE task-force programs at both national and provincial levels. Due to the unpredictable and shifting sentiments towards the pandemic, these teams continuously discuss ways to improve and accelerate the response during an increasingly concerning situation.

Evidence-based knowledge, understanding and planning: With the need to be driven by evidence, the team continues to support and make use of various surveys and data sources. The RCCE weekly brief was shared on Sept 15 covering the reporting period. The brief included analysis from the weekly social media sentiment data, the Polio-COVID-19 helpline, Field reporting from provinces, expert opinions, and other periodic surveys conducted by RCCE partners. These sources are mostly coordinated, analyzed, and compiled by the UNICEF sections.

**Key highlights from surveys during this reporting period<sup>3</sup>:**

- 42 per cent of respondents feel they are not at risk of contracting COVID-19
- 57 per cent say they lack the means to seek testing if they had COVID-19 symptoms.
- Due to the loss of income, 50 per cent claimed to have sold an asset to make ends meet, 16 per cent admitted to sending their children to work due to the loss of income, 65 per cent admitted to having borrowed money, and 50 per cent fear they will lose their job in next 6 months.
- 78 per cent say HWs is their most trusted source for information on COVID-19.
- 51 per cent say that radio and TV, and 20 per cent say that Social Media is their preferred media channel for receiving important information.
- There is a general belief that a good Muslims will remain safe from COVID-19
- There is strong justification and conviction that the younger generation is less at risk.
- 66 per cent of parents say schools are unprepared and unable to protect their children and enforce preventive measures in schools.
- The poor suffered more during the confinement, it will be more difficult to get them to re-accept enforcement of new restrictions.

With the social data and qualitative analysis collected, a team is formed to translate them into actionable recommendations. The recommendations are shared with policy makers, sector-specific programs, and RCCE task force teams. These have been the basis for most actions and planning.

**Response:**

School re-opening. It is scheduled that schools will re-open September 15 in Pakistan. From RCCE perspective, insight from community feedback, social media content and media reporting, is showing that challenges are deeper than expected, especially since many students themselves do not practice precautionary measures at home, nor do they see their parents demonstrating the good example. Surveys (UNICEF/Viamo CRA 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2020) show that 2/3 of parents remain uncomfortable with resending their children to school due to low trust in their ability to implement proper hygiene standards. RCCE contributed to the production and distribution of print materials and dedicated radio/TV programs aimed to inform parents of the start date and explain the new procedures and preventive measures to be implemented in schools. Radio programs were broadcast on National Pakistan Public Radio (41 stations) that equally encouraged parents to do their part in raising awareness and enforcing preventive behaviors at home and during transportation to and from school.

Despite the above concerns, the majority of parents stated that they intended to send their children back to school, not necessarily because they felt schools would be safe, but due to their belief that children would suffer more by staying at home.

**Low risk-Perception and general complacency towards COVID-19<sup>4</sup>.**

*“People are back to normal life and to their day-to-day activities, as if COVID-19 was an ancient tale that only affected people living in other countries.”* Trend analysis of data continues to highlight the following contributors to a low perception of risk for COVID-19.

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<sup>3</sup> Ipsos, UNICEF / Viamo Community Rapid Assessment, round 1, Aug 28, 2020, Weekly Social Data Sentiment.

<sup>4</sup> Social Media sentiment analysis

1. National lifting of many lockdown restrictions and sudden reduction in media reporting of daily cases/deaths.
2. Belief that the virus cannot exist in the summer due to increased temperatures.
3. Belief that the virus is not dangerous and being exaggerated by the government/media.
4. Belief that religion provides the faithful with protection from disease.
5. COVID-19 restriction fatigue. Family members have become careless in following the safety guidelines and started to attend social and religious gatherings.

Among families who do not believe COVID-19 is real, isolating ill family members is not practiced and actively discouraged given that caring for the ill is considered an important demonstration of a person's faith. RCCE approach to this is to brief all religious leaders to deal with this issue as sensibly as possible and without compromising the message. Over 328,000 religious leaders were engaged from the beginning of the pandemic.

Strategic reflection on potential 2<sup>nd</sup> wave. Considering the present situation, the RCCE team was requested to initiate a strategic reflection around and prevention and preparation of a potential second wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan. A presentation was made to the UN members, with the following points:

- A closer analysis of initial findings from the national seroprevalence survey on Covid-19 conducted by the Ministry of Health and WHO suggests potential areas that are less immune to Covid-19 than others, these include rural populations, Tier 2 districts with less than 500 cases, and younger population (aged less than 20) and older populations (aged above 60 year)<sup>5</sup>, which are priority group for renewed focus.
- More dedicated focus should be on the promotion of key preventive behaviors, especially during social and religious events, safe school re-opening, Community engagement in Rural areas, support to the elderly, and addressing the increasing mobility of the population

Media, social-media, and production of educational materials (print/video). Due to social distancing, many of the participatory, community and public edu/tainment events were either challenged. The focus on mass media (tv/radio/social media) has become a more effective choice to address. During this period, RCCE continues to broadcast a highly popular weekly radio shows, *Kadam Kadam Sehat*. These weekly radio shows (50 min each) are broadcast through Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), and through 41 radio channels. It is estimated that PBC reaches 83 million listeners. In GB and in collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation to improve IPC services and awareness, 156 awareness campaigns were organized through online trainings to frontline staff.

Mobility. There is higher population mobility across the country following the easing of the lockdown measures: Media reporting is consistently showing a steep rise in region-to-region mobility, particularly since 14 August 2020. This increased mobility is a risk for the spread COVID-19 along transportation routes, and from major places of concentration, like cities, into less densely populated communities, like villages. The potential cross-pollination may expose new populations who are outside urban circles of contamination. RCCE plans to partner with organizations working on major transportation routes to reduce the risk.

Adolescents. There is low perceived threat and a collective complacency about COVID-19 risks, particularly among the youth: Trend analysis of community feedback shows that the majority of youth have not been following preventative measures since August. Addressing adolescents (60 per cent of population under 20 years of age), is a critical element to the COVID-19 solution, as although they may be more immune, they can nevertheless remain receptors and transmitters of the virus to others. Jointly with the UNICEF ADAP program, a 10-week digital media campaign was initiated around youth-engagement against Covid. RCCE worked on content and visuals for the campaign. So far it has reached 900,000 people, in which half reacted to the postings. Another radio station was produced to address psychosocial services for youth.

Feedback Mechanisms. The Polio helpline, now also used for COVID-19 purposes, receives nearly 7,000 calls per day, through 250 telephone operators/agents. The helpline has shown to have been a very effective tool to build trust between the population and the government and partner response teams, as well as help 'manage' the pandemic. It also deals with informing callers on where they can get tested or get treatment for COVID-19, and equally important to receive feedback from callers on their views and concerns. This helps all partners and sectors adjust their response programme accordingly. The helpline has received over 7 million calls (209,900 in reporting period) and over 3.8 million

<sup>5</sup> (Seroprevalence study MOH/WHO/Aug 2020)

(147,836 during reporting period) calls responded. Of the calls received: 7.13 per cent were related to medical conditions; 2.68 per cent suspected cases ; 5.32 per cent others, 2.18 per cent hospitals/tests, 11.10 per cent symptoms, 2.28 per cent treatment, 0.18 per cent plasma donation.

**Partnerships:** UNICEF is working with the federal and provincial governments as well as implementing partners which include: WHO, UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNODC, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UN HABITAT, UNRC, WFP, ICRC, PRCS, GRASP/ITC, Digital Pakistan, UNILEVER, Daraz.pk, Zong4G, AKF, HANDS, Pakistan Medical Association.

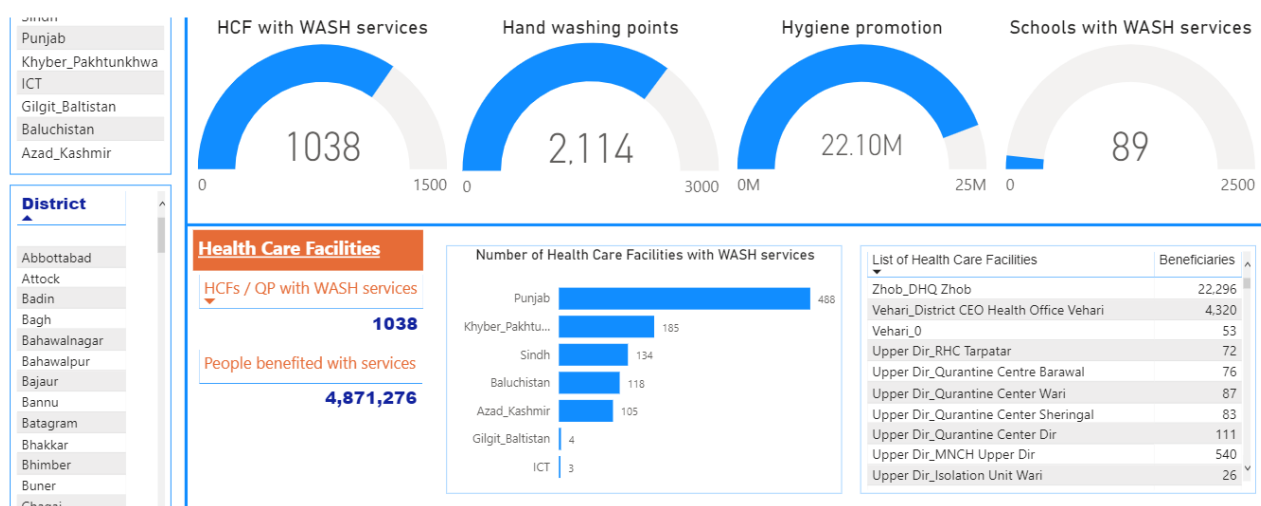
## 2. Infection Prevention and Control

**Coordination:** UNICEF continues to coordinate with WHO and other UN agencies providing technical support in IPC through the UN IPC technical working group. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) to convene bi-weekly virtual WASH sector coordination meetings at federal level bringing together over 70 organizations and government representatives from all the provinces to bring focus to the WASH component of IPC. The same support is being extended to the departments of local government in the four provinces to hold similar coordination meetings on weekly basis. All participating organizations are reporting their progress through the 4Ws matrix, ensuring effective coordination and efficient use of resources by avoiding duplication.

The IPC-WASH sector, with support from UNICEF and the Global WASH Cluster (GWC), has developed an online dashboard which gives a visual view of the 4Ws matrix analysis, showing progress by each partner in each location. The online version is accessible through the following link:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/pakistan/pakistan-wash-sector-working-group-covid-19-response-4ws-data-analysis>

### Pakistan WASH Sector Working Group - COVID-19 Response - 4Ws Data Analysis



#### UNICEF Response:

To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities which include Ultraviolet (UV) water filters, toilets and handwashing stations in 568 (1 new) Health Care Facilities (HCFs, Sindh: 38, KP: 87, Punjab: 373 and Balochistan:70). More than 1.6 million people (207,046 new) have gained access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in these HCFs contributing towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among healthcare workers. Over 7.9 million people (312,598 new) have been supported with hygiene promotion services including COVID-19 prevention and control information. Over 4.2 million (416,282 new) people have used the 1,354 (34 new) handwashing stations at communal points in affected areas. To date, UNICEF supported the training of 5,829 (200 new) frontline sanitary workers to enhance the capacity of sanitary and frontline health workers on WASH/IPC in HCFs and high-risk communities. UNICEF is supporting WASH/IPC interventions in 20 out of 27 high burden districts.

Safe Schools reopening initiatives is being targeted in 1008 schools for WASH/IPC activities (Balochistan 88, Punjab 500, Sindh 120, KP 300). WASH/IPC in Schools remains a top priority in the WASH sector coordination meetings (both



at federal and provincial level) with focus on IPC strategy for school reopening. Bidding process is being completed for the provision of WASH services in the targeted schools across four provinces.

UNICEF distributed detergents and disinfectants to HCF to ensure effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces thereby reducing the risk of infection among healthcare workers, patients and caregivers. With support from UNILEVER, UNICEF distributed 8,000 bottles of bleach and 140,000 bars of soap to 38 HCF (Sindh: 20; Punjab: 18). An additional 60,000 bars of soap were distributed to at risk communities in Punjab.

### **WASH Sector Response**

Under the coordination of MOCC, sector partners, including UNICEF have provided WASH services to 1038 HCFs (114 new) reaching to more than 4.8 million people (900,000 new) with WASH services and to date 2,114 handwashing stations (273 new) have been installed. Over 22.10 million people (1.5 million new) have been supported with hygiene promotion services including COVID-19 prevention and control information. The mobile application allowing for two-way communication with the Clean and Green Pakistan champions is used to engage with the youth (18 years and above) and 119,000 youth have registered on the system and 50,000 have acknowledged the messages on COVID-19 related social and behaviour change communication around hand hygiene.

**Partnerships:** UNICEF is working with the federal and provincial governments as well as with implementing partners including: AKF, IRP (Islamic Relief Pakistan), HANDS, SRSP, WASA Lahore, WSSC Swat, WSSC Abbottabad, WSSP, Peshawar, BRSP, Unilever and DFID, WHO, UNFPA and UN-Habitat.

### **3. Psychosocial Support and Child Protection**

**Coordination:** Meetings were held in three provinces within the reporting period. In Sindh, the TORs of the working group were finalized and the Child protection response to the Flood Emergency situation was discussed. It was agreed that UNICEF will work with Social Welfare Department to develop messages on prevention of hazards to children due to floods targeting parents and children. In KP, the KP-Child Protection Sub working group reviewed the minimum standards for protective spaces and the SOPs for the inter-agency referrals, while in Punjab, the Child Protection Working Group meeting focused on orientation of members on 4Ws.

**UNICEF Response:** A total of 3,324 social workforce professionals (1,705 women and 1,619 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 104 trained in last two weeks. This includes 28 female and 76 males in KP and Gilgit-Baltistan.

To date, a total of 53,374 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (3,133 girls, 3,451 boys, 24,246 women, 22,544 men) have received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan and GB with 1,412 reached within the reporting period (Punjab: 832, KP: 487, Sindh: 66, Balochistan: 833 and GB: 27). This includes 523 Individuals (37 Girls, 55 Boys, 267 women and 164 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in KP and Sindh. Additionally, to reach out to a maximum number of young people with MHPSS services, a second open call was made on MPHSS which has increased the total number of young people registering for services to 84.

For the prevention and response to violence of children, a total of 257 children (61 girls, 196 boys) received child protection services supported by UNICEF in Sindh, including 141 during the month of August (41 girls and 100 boys). In KP, 15 children (7 boys and 8 girls) were provided with child protection services including shelter by members of the child protection working group member. And in Punjab and Sindh, 283 people (99 women, 184 men) have been reached with prevention messages on VAC including online safety messages.

As schools prepare to reopen in Pakistan, UNICEF provided the needed technical inputs to ensure MHPSS is included in strategic documents relating to school opening at federal and provincial levels. In Punjab, a training manual on MHPSS has been developed for teachers and currently being used to train teachers.

In addition, Stigma and discrimination prevention messages have reached 115,331 more people and 252 people were engaged through various platforms. With this increase attained within this reporting period, the overall outreach of stigma

prevention messages increased to 35,963,275 and engagement to 308,606. The contribution from ICT and the regions was 87, 941 and the provinces contributed 27, 390 to the outreach in last two weeks.

**Partnerships:** UNICEF is working with the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as implementing partners including DANESH (Drugs and Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity), Agha Khan Foundation, DevCon and School of Leadership Foundation.

#### 4. Health

**Coordination:** UNICEF Health is working in close coordination with Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MNHSR&C), Provincial Health Departments, UN and Development partners. There is on-going Coordination with MNHSR&C on Telemedicine and health workers COVID-19 perception survey. UNICEF participated in the National level EPI review which was attended by the National/provincial Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and partners. The meeting deliberated on impact of immunization activities by COVID-19 scenario and agreed for follow up activities. UNICEF organized Health Population Nutrition Development Partners Group (HPNDPG) Meeting on 10 September 2020 where a thorough discussion on partners' contribution on COVID-19 was held and was agreed to collaborate and contribute towards preparing joint talking points and meeting agenda to be presented to MNHSR&C from all partners. UNICEF is also coordinating with the Provincial COVID-19 Operational Cell and Department of Health (DoH) for tracking the epidemiological profile of COVID-19 cases in Balochistan where the test positivity rates is high (around 10 per cent) in comparison to national average of below 2 per cent. In Balochistan, since later part of August, positive cases are constantly around 10-15 per cent amongst the tested cases. Average daily test has increased from around 400 to 1500 per day since mid September<sup>6</sup>.

UNICEF also organized a coordination meeting with Gavi and Federal EPI on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2020. The main discussion revolved around the implementation status of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization plan in context of COVID-19. UNICEF Pakistan also held coordination meetings with HQ and Regional Office on knowledge management, where proposed assessment on Health Workers Perception, Knowledge and Behavior on Corona Virus Infection was discussed and agreed that Pakistan Country Office will conduct the assessment.

**UNICEF Response:** UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure continuation of essential primary health care services including immunization, Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post-Natal Care (PNC), delivery services, childcare and curative care for adults in 136 targeted health facilities reaching 285,826 people in the reporting period (Balochistan: 2,048; Sindh: 129,415; KP: 4,067; Punjab 150,296) with a total reach of 1,861,711 since the onset of COVID-19. Measles immunisation reached a total of 8,172 children (under 1 year) (Balochistan:101; Sindh: 4,614; KP: 558; Sindh: 2,899) during the reporting period with a total of 49,897 children vaccinated against measles in the 136 UNICEF supported health facilities. UNICEF has provided basic PPEs (gloves, sanitisers and masks) to 7,741 frontline health workers during the reporting period (Balochistan:9,200; KP: 5,941 and Sindh: 1,800) and reached a total of 83,222 frontline workers.

UNICEF supported IPC training reached 84,409 frontline health workers in total (9,982 trained in the reporting period) and supported the training of 76,823 frontline health workers and community volunteers on COVID-19 and case identification and referral of suspected cases (2,211 trained during reporting period). UNICEF in coordination with Department of Health, Balochistanis planning to train Lady Health Workers on COVID-19. The trainings are expected to begin soon in the targeted districts. Moreover, Training of Trainers on Clinical Management of COVID-19 in children is in progress in partnership with Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA).

**Partnerships:** MoNHSR&C, Provincial and Regional Departments of Health, Health Education Cell under DG Health Services, MNCH, EPI, LHWs, AIDS Control, PPA, Family Physician Association of Pakistan, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, SARHAD (a CSO) and Public Health Association, PHC Global, Agha Khan Foundation and Agha Khan Development Network, in GB and Health Services Academy, Bridge consultant, Premier Advertisers, Pakistan Medical Association and Pediatric European Network for the Treatment of AIDS (PENTA).

#### 5. Nutrition

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<sup>6</sup> Data extracted from NEOC presentation



**Coordination:** The Nutrition sector coordination led by the government and co-chaired by UNICEF continued to coordinate the nutrition response to COVID-19 pandemic at federal and provincial levels. During the reporting period 7 coordination meetings took place: 2 at Federal level, 1 meeting in each of the following three provinces (Punjab, Sindh and KP) and 2 meetings in Balochistan. Response to floods consecutive to heavy rains in KP and Sindh and CERF interventions in Balochistan were also discussed during these meetings.

Inputs were provided into the flood rapid assessment tool and two UNICEF staff in Sindh province were deputated to be part of the assessment team. Assessment is completed, and report compilation is in progress. The assessment outcomes would be used to prepare a response plan and most likely a CERF proposal to respond to the humanitarian situation resulting from the floods.

The first dashboard put together to reflect nutrition sector response to COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan is finalized and includes data from government, NGO partners, and UN agencies working on nutrition.



**UNICEF Response:** During the reporting period, across Pakistan, 2,635 UNICEF supported health facility sites provided nutrition services, an increase of 2 sites compared to previous report. A total of 77,550 SAM children have been admitted for treatment with 9,840 children (5,425 girls and 4,415 boys) admitted for treatment during the reporting period (Balochistan 3,662; Sindh 2,351; KP 1,575 and Punjab 2,252).

With UNICEF support, inter-personal communication on IYCF practices in the COVID-19 context reached 100,572 mothers/caregivers (Balochistan 6,546; Sindh 28,833; KP 8,246 and Punjab 56,947) through counselling during the reporting period, reaching 715,652 in total.

In Sindh UNICEF supported capacity development initiatives continued and 1,956 (499 male and 1,457 female) additional community health providers were oriented on essential packages of CMAM and IYCF in COVID-19 context.

**Partnerships:** MoNHSR&C, Provincial Health Departments, Ministry of Planning Development and Reform, NDMA, PDMA, Nutrition Development Partners, CSOs and UN SUN networks, Association for Gender Awareness and Human Empowerment (AGAHE), Rural Community Development Society (RCDS), Rural Education and Economic Development Society (REEDS), Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS), SHIFA Foundation and Nutrition International (NI).

## 6. Education

**Coordination:** UNICEF is a key stakeholder in supporting the COVID-19 response led by the Federal Ministry of Education (MoE) and the provincial education departments. In the reporting week key coordination meetings were held across the provinces to prepare for the safe reopening of schools. As announced by the Interprovincial Education Minister's meeting all schools and educational institutions will be reopened in phases from September 15<sup>th</sup> onwards. In the first phase children from grade 9 and above will return to schools and from 23<sup>rd</sup> September grades 6 and above. The pre and primary level will start school from 30<sup>th</sup> September.

In Sindh, Provincial Education Minister and UNICEF organized a virtual meeting with all the district education officials and managers to review the preparedness level for the safe schools reopening. All the SOPs were discussed in detail and instructions were given to ensure provision of key supplies required for the implementation of the SoPs. In Balochistan Secondary Education department with technical support from UNICEF launched a sensitization and training program for around 60,000 teaching and non-teaching staff for ensuring safe return to school. In KP the coordination

meetings focussed on ensuring monitoring of the compliance of the SOPs and have instructed District Coordinators for Monitoring and Assessment to use a standardized checklist for regular daily monitoring of schools. Trainings of District Monitoring Officers and computer operators on monitoring of implementation also started from 11<sup>th</sup> September. Similarly, in Punjab the trainings for safe reopening of schools has been completed for all the district education officials, principals and teachers by trained Master Trainers of the education department.

**UNICEF response:** The total number of children directly benefiting from UNICEF supported alternate learning opportunities stands at 86,883 children till the reporting period. In total, 277,977 parents have been reached with messages encouraging learning activities. In addition to this, 3,539 School Management Committees (SMCs) members, teachers were reached with COVID-19 prevention information via SMS and other social media platforms during the reporting period, taking the total to 1.57 million people. In the districts of Quetta and Mastung in Balochistan province, 154 schools have been assessed and school development plans completed to improve WASH facilities as part of preparation for safe reopening of schools. The focus in the reporting period had been on training teachers on safe reopening of schools and psychosocial support to children returning after 6-months break. On 10<sup>th</sup> September Punjab completed trainings of 3,300 Area Education Officers in 36 districts on Mental Health and Psychosocial training that started from 17<sup>th</sup> August. In the reporting period 10,925 teachers were trained taking the total to 11,670. As part of safe reopening of schools UNICEF KP office's Education and WASH sections have jointly coordinated to install 194 hand washing stations in schools that had missing facilities in COVID-19 hot spot districts of Peshawar, Swat and Abbottabad.

**Partnerships:** Ministry of Federal Education, Provincial Education Departments, Indus Resource Center, ILM Association, Microsoft, Viamo and SABAQ Foundation.

## Adolescent and Youth Development and Participation

**Coordination:** The five UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF) involved in the joint program to engage Adolescents and Youth in COVID-19 continue their collaboration to promote adolescents and youth engagement in COVID19 response. With the first phase of the #CopingwithCorona campaign ending on 15<sup>th</sup> September, discussions are ongoing to focus the second campaign on post COVID 19 impact topics such as safe school reopening, protection of adolescents and youth from violence, exploitation and harmful practices, entrepreneurial skills including Digiskills among others.

**Response:** For the reporting period, the cascaded adolescents and youth led by the 209 initially trained ambassadors have further trained 657 who have people mostly adolescents and youth across all four Pakistan. Also, the nine selected adolescents who Appreciative Enquiry (AE) Approach have started The enquirers adopted an in-person interview technique to gather the data. The benefit of this approach is that it allows for a more natural course of discussion for better understanding of the situation with special attention to feelings and emotions. For better on ground enquiry and data compilation it is recommended to exercise empathetic interviews as role plays during the training session.



A campaign poster on #ReadyForNewNormal

training of additional adolescents and youth together reached 2,600 provinces and regions in participated in a training on reaching 35 adolescents.



The campaign within the reporting period has been about encouraging adolescents and youth to get #ReadyForNewNormal by following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of wearing a mask, practicing physical washing hands properly for 20 seconds. To this end, a #wewearmask animation video created in July was reshared that got a lot of traction reaching 4,000 young people.

The new normal series also introduced to adolescents and youth, alternatives forms of greetings thus, promoting physical distancing as the new normal and therefore discouraging the usual handshakes and hugs. In addition, with the

lockdown being lifted and people stepping out, opportunity was taken to remind young people that, COVID-19 is still in existence and the need to follow the SOPs. An animated video on regular handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds as recommended by the WHO was therefore shared again on social media platforms of the campaign. Meanwhile, the campaign has now reached a total of more than 641,000 people (391,010 Male and 249,990 Female). The number of adolescents participating in the campaign has increased reaching 262,810 (41 percent) compared to the initial stage of the campaign when the numbers of adolescents were fewer (about 16 per cent).

And to create awareness regarding the precautionary measures, all parents should take to ensure a safe return to school, mommy influencers were taken on board who shared personal stories on their Instagram profiles of how they're preparing their kids for #BackToSchool amidst the #NewNormal.

## Supply and Procurement Services

A total of US\$ 7.5 million worth of supplies and services have been committed from UNICEF's own resources in response to COVID-19 outbreak. These funds have been used for procurement and distribution of PPEs (gloves, surgical caps, boot covers), sanitizers, IEC and RCCE materials, media engagement related services, WASH sanitation products, rehabilitation of Health Facilities, COVID-19 call centres and consultancy services. UNICEF procured 525 Oxygen Concentrator kits delivered in August (125) and September (400), out of which 60 were distributed to the provinces and plans are under way to distribute the remaining 465 oxygen concentrator kits by end of September. UNICEF Pakistan and MoNHSR&C signed the Pandemic Response Effectiveness in Pakistan (PREP) agreement with a total value of US\$ 70 million funded by World Bank for the procurement of hospital equipment through UNICEF. The project will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by strengthening the country's national healthcare systems and mitigating socioeconomic disruptions. The items to be procured includes PPEs, diagnostic equipment, clinical management equipment, medicines, vehicles, ambulances to support designated hospitals and laboratories, quarantine centres, entry points, isolation facilities in the major cities across the country with the aim to strengthen the health system.

UNICEF technical assistance to the MoNHSR&C will significantly contribute to strengthen and contain COVID-19 in the country through offshore and local procurement.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

### 1. SAFE AT SCHOOL

In the run-up to children starting to go back to school across Pakistan on September 15<sup>th</sup>, UNICEF initiated a #SafeAtSchool campaign together with the Ministry of Education to promote the adoption of #COVID-19 lifesaving behaviours in an out of school by children, adolescents, parents and communities. Two tweets were posted by the Prime Minister on his official account as a video produced by UNICEF together with MoNHSR&C and the Ministry of Education was released nationally. The video called on people of all ages to mobilize against the virus as they went back to school and to work across the country. UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Aida Girma published an Op-Ed on "Safe Reopening" of schools in daily newspaper 'The News'. While emphasising the need for the learning process to continue during COVID-19, the Op-Ed reiterates the need for students, teachers and communities to take all necessary precautions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus by following the Standard Operating Procedures on and off campus.

UNICEF developed online flyers in Urdu and English calling on students, parents and teachers to adhere to COVID-19 preventive behaviours in and out of school; they were posted on UNICEF's and MoNHSR&C's social media platforms. A one-hour episode of UNICEF's radio series on COVID-19 with Radio Pakistan was posted on social media platforms and a series of social media posts documented how teachers in Sindh were trained on COVID-19 SoPs in Sindh province. UNICEF continued to develop and post content under the #PakYouthDiaries initiative, including a photo of child actor Shees Sajjad Gul-Roomi, and posted a video in which a woman doctor gave tips on COVID-19 prevention..



UNICEF Pakistan participated in UNICEF's global and regional initiatives to support children going back to school, including 'Thank You Teacher', a global initiative that showcases photos of children thanking school staff for helping them learn in the time of COVID-19, and "Education Heroes in South Asia", a regional initiative that documents the everyday heroes who help children resume learning across the region,

## **2- FLOOD and COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

A series of posts documented the UNICEF Representative's visit to Sindh, where she saw first-hand how UNICEF supports the authorities' response to the floods and to COVID-19.

In Islamabad, the UNICEF Representative met with Ms. Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, to discuss how the EU mobilized €5M to help UNICEF ensure the availability of basic health care services for women and children in Sindh and Balochistan in response to COVID-19. A press release was issued and content posted on social media.

### **LINKS: 1- SafeAtSchool**

#### **Mobilization Video 'Back to School, Back to Work':**

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/362787544742672>

#### **Tweets by Prime Minister Imran Khan:**

<https://twitter.com/ImranKhanPTI/status/1305356006327824390>

<https://twitter.com/ImranKhanPTI/status/1305358175068192768>

#### **Op-Ed 'Safe Reopening':**

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/715396-safe-reopening?fbclid=IwAR2Q1ShgtFFOy6cHwsG38U1qL83Ugw0HdSCf0Ek18k89z3UyReYw7RPFA0c>

#### **Radio programme – Episode on Safe reopening of schools:**

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3418819651471581/?extid=I0BHho6f8H5xprsZ&d=n>

#### **Online flyers #SafeAtSchool**

<https://www.facebook.com/241924099855972/posts/630439084337803/?extid=kDYYjJskokC9JF93&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/241924099855972/posts/630437917671253/?extid=rKHOab9l6JjKzj43&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3440947295925483/?extid=aT4IR2EV05o2vERT&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3442511505769062/?extid=QMgm6Owxv5JPXCMx&d=n>

#### **Teacher training on COVID-19 SoPs in Sindh:**

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3445914702095409/?extid=V3o9M3LJ41JFuaNi&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3451950421491837/?extid=s99LzM8tK4mJS9Ko&d=n>

#### **COVID-19 tips – Video with Dr. Fahya:**

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3430786210274925/?vh=e&extid=dG4Xc9Bwn92xJO2w&d=n>

**Pak Youth Diaries: photo by child actor Shees Sajjad Gul-Room:**

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3455270261159853//>

**'Thank You teacher' DOC initiative:**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CE0llurpLR/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFJXc4fBBDq/>

**'Education heroes in South Asia' ROSA initiative:**

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3433279506692262/>

## **2- EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Flood and COVID-19 response in Sindh:**

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3443139079039638/?extid=vG2fXIYtla4v1nzF&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3449264105093802/?extid=JHL0dyTQXZTa4iQX&d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/652717038961350>

**EU humanitarian aid mobilizes €5M for basic health service provision during COVID-19:**

[https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/press-releases/eu-humanitarian-aid-mobilizes-5m-basic-health-service-provision-during-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR0PP46iHjitiuRlIalEF9ZqzwckqrvXPp\\_M4MSWe\\_W1UX5SD7xTJ-bcLDU](https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/press-releases/eu-humanitarian-aid-mobilizes-5m-basic-health-service-provision-during-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR0PP46iHjitiuRlIalEF9ZqzwckqrvXPp_M4MSWe_W1UX5SD7xTJ-bcLDU)

<https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/posts/3452564648097081/?extid=W4YLIeik4JjvwvdV&d=n>

## **Funding**

UNICEF Pakistan needs US\$ 50.2 million to support the COVID-19 humanitarian action in the country. The office mobilised US\$ 17.67 million (35 per cent) for the humanitarian response. A significant funding gap of US\$ 32.50 million (65 per cent) persists to provide required essential services nationwide.

Funds received include US\$ 4.94 million existing resources/programmes re-purposed for COVID-19 from the European Union, DFID funded CLECSAP, ASWA II, Aawaz II, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts (KPMD) Support Programme, UNICEF's Global Thematic Humanitarian Funds and Regular Resources.

In-kind contribution received from Unilever and Procter and Gamble (includes sanitation, hygiene and disinfection material) along with airtime to reach people through mass media. Partnership with Zong 4G, on communicating preventive behaviour messages on their social media pages have contributed and helped achieve positive results for behavioural change.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan and United Kingdom, CERF Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, European Union, Global Partnership for Education, Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered, Unilever, Zong along with all its public and private donors for their contributions. UNICEF also recognizes the repurposing of polio programme assets with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary Foundation, CIDA and CDC towards the COVID-19 response.



Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received	*Existing resources reprogrammed for response	\$	%
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (C4D)	9 500 000	1,813,758	0	7,686,242	81%
Infection Prevention and Control (WASH)	17 100 000	3,277,619	1,517,564	12,304,817	72%
Psychosocial Support and Child Protection	4 825 000	1,698,562	757,502	2,368,937	49%
Building Resilient Health System	7 790 000	3,532,278	1,937,669	2,320,053	30%
Continuity of Education and Learning	3 350 000	420,655	671,599	2,257,746	67%
Nutrition	5 625 000	1,965,663	53,251	3,606,086	64%
Coordination, technical support and operational costs	2 010 000	50,000	0	1,960,000	98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50 200 000</b>	<b>\$ 12,758,535</b>	<b>\$ 4,937,584</b>	<b>\$ 32,503,880</b>	<b>65%</b>

*\*Internal resources utilized for the response reduced due to revised unit costs for COVID-19 supplies*

## Next SitRep: 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

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## Summary of Results

Sector	UNICEF and Operational partners			Task Force /Sector		
	Target	Results	Change since last report ▲▼	Target	Results	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement (C4D)</b>						
Number of people reached through social media*	1,500,000	670,959	37,696▲	3,500,000	2,965,155	37,696▲
Number of people engaged through social media***	15,000	13,363	4,012▼	650,000	231,655	0
Number of at-risk populations reached through community engagement	201,066,962	20,104,987	713,522▲	201,066,962	35,955,449	713,522▲
Number of members of religious leaders engaged in promoting key messages	345,000	327,853	41,331▲	345,000	370,389	41,331▲
Number of media practitioners oriented on reporting on COVID-19	40,000	24,118	1,445▲	50,000	24,118	1,445▲
Number of calls received from helpline	16,000,000	7,103,469	90,947▲	16,000,000	7,103,469	90,947▲
Number of calls from helpline responded to	11,000,000	4,973,954	1,080,860▲	11,000,000	4,973,954	1,080,860▲
<b>Infection Prevention and Control (WASH)</b>						
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services.	900	568	1▲	1,500	1038	114▲
Number of people at high risk of COVID-19 supported with hygiene promotion activities and facilities	10,000,000	7,912,598	312,598▲	25,000,000	22,100,000	1,510,000▲
Number of community sites with handwashing facilities in the affected areas	1,800	1,354	34▲	3,000	2,114	273▲
# of schools in targeted high-risk areas supported with IPC measures and improved water and sanitation	700	53	51▲	2,500	89	39▲
<b>Psychosocial Support and Child Protection</b>						
Number of affected people, including children, who received psycho-social support***	63,400	53,374	1,412▲	83,400	56,237	1564▲
Number of social and care workers trained on psychosocial support and stigma reduction	4,400	3,324	104▲	6,000	3,422	104▲
Number of people reached with stigma prevention messages	50,000,000	35,963,275	115,331▲	60,000,000	35,963,275	115,331▲
Number of children (boys and girls) and adolescents (boys and girls) who receive child protection services supported by UNICEF (Response)	700	283	283▲	700	283	283▲
Number of people (children and adults) reached with prevention messages on VAC including online safety	560,000	257	257▲	933,000	257	257▲
<b>Continuity of Education and Learning</b>						

Number of SMCs/PTMCs members, teachers and other education personnel reached with prevention information via SMS, robocall and social media	3,000,000	1,567,945	3,539▲	5,000,000	1,679,730	3539
Number of parents reached with messages encouraging learning activities through SMS	5,000,000	277,977	13▲	8,000,000	354,864	13▲
Number of children benefiting from alternate learning opportunities	7,500,000	86,883	0	10,000,000	8,814,507	0
Number of SMCs trained on safe reopening of schools	8,500	0	0	12,000	-	0
Number of teachers trained on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools	100,000	11,760	10,925▲	130,000	12,073	10,925▲
<b>Building Resilient Health Systems</b>						
Number of people benefitting from continuity of primary health care services at UNICEF supported health facilities	3,200,000	1,861,711	285,826▲			
Number of children < 1 vaccinated against Measles	170,000	49,897	8,172▲			
Number of frontline health workers reached with basic PPEs (masks, gloves and hand sanitizers)	100,000	83,222	7,741▲			
Number of frontline workers trained on infection prevention and control	100,000	84,409	9,982▲			
Number of frontline health workers and community volunteers oriented on COVID-19 and referral of suspected cases	100,000	76,823	2,211▲			
<b>Nutrition</b>						
Number of sites which are safe for service providers and patients.	3,000	2,635	2▲	3,500	3,243	2▲
Number of mothers and care givers at high risk of infection supported with IYCF and hygiene promotion.	1,110,747	715,652	100,572▲	4,369,244	926,556	106,634▲
Number of children treated for SAM without complication in a safe environment at health facility	277,630	77,550	9,840▲	584,098	115,274	13,873▲

\* To minimize double counting UNICEF HQ RCCE Guidelines define the result as the number of impressions per post from the highest performing platform for last two weeks. Also this target has been revised because Social Media data reported from Polio is high in this reporting timeline, as they have posted posts during the pre and during NID campaign and in addition to that they boosted the posts during the reporting timeline.

\*\* For the Social media engagement (likes, shares and retweet) results the UNICEF HQ RCCE Guidelines define the result as the number of impressions per post from the highest performing platform for last two weeks.

\*\*\* UNICEF team is in the process of revising the targets till December, this time around the progress is overshooting the targets which will be revised in the next sitrep.