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Reporting Period: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (Monthly)

# Pakistan COVID-19 Situation Report No. 19



## Situation in Numbers

**332,993** Confirmed cases

**314,066** Recovered cases

**6,806** Deaths

**1.5 m** People to be reached through social media (monthly)

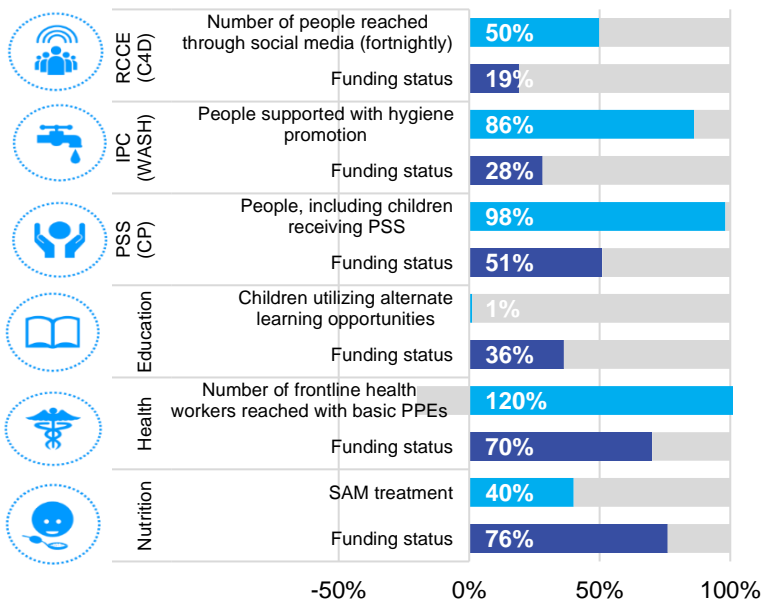
**10 m** People to be supported with hygiene promotion

Source: <http://COVID.gov.pk/>  
Date of report: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

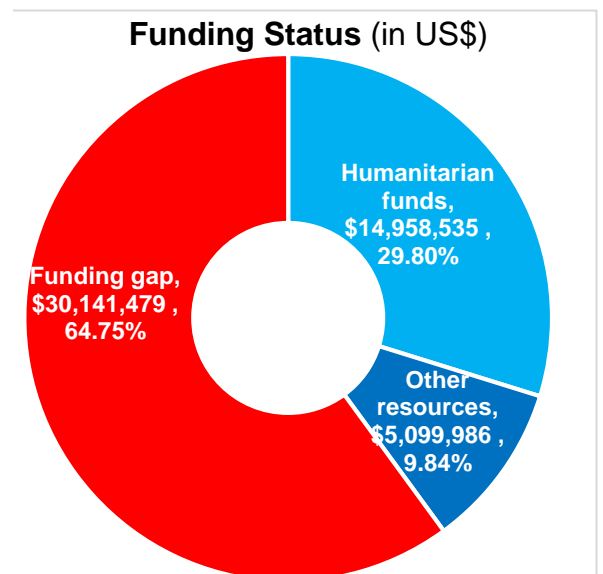
## Key Highlights

- During October there has been an increase in trend of COVID-19 positive cases (Test positivity rate on 1<sup>st</sup> October was 1.6 per cent and on 31<sup>st</sup> October it was 3.7 per cent) indicating a second wave of cases with the onset of the winter season and ease in implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs).
- Over 111,227 children treated for SAM without complication in a safe environment at health facility, (23,611 new).
- Using WASH sector communication networks, over 26 million (over 3 million new) people reached with COVID-19 hygiene promotion messages with UNICEF reaching 8.6 million (241,819 new).
- Over 2.45 million people (394,580 new) benefitting from continuity of primary health care services at UNICEF supported health facilities.
- Through UNICEF support 62,217 parents, caregivers, children and individuals reached with PSS through trained social workforce professionals (5,834 new).
- 119,987 frontline health workers reached with basic PPEs (masks, gloves and hand sanitizers) with 23,115 health workers reached during the reporting period.

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



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

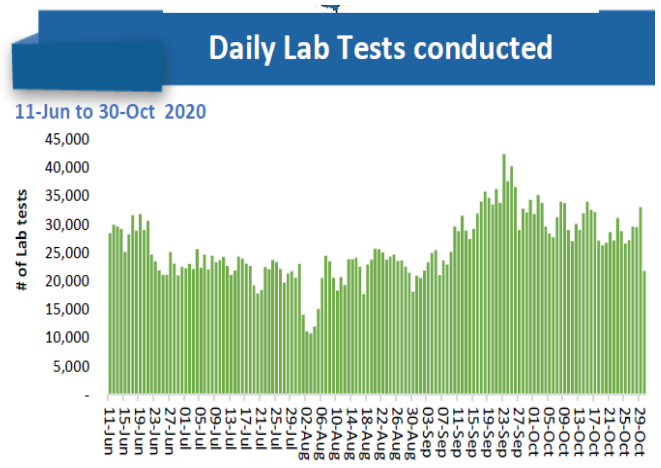
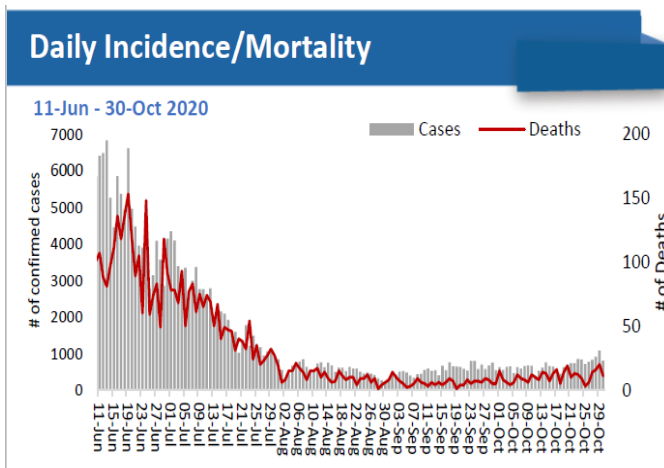


## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Based on the WHO situation report, as of 31 October, Pakistan has conducted 4,431,225 laboratory tests, of which 332,993 were positive. Sindh is the most affected province with 145,475 cases, followed by Punjab with 104,016 cases and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 39,458 cases. A total of 838 cases have been admitted in hospitals; 314,066 (94.32 per cent) have recovered and discharged, 669 are in critical condition and there have been 6,806 deaths with the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 2.04 per cent. During October there has been an increase in trend of COVID-19 positive cases. Test positivity rate on 1 October was 1.6 per cent and on 31 October it was 3.7 per cent indicating a second wave of cases.

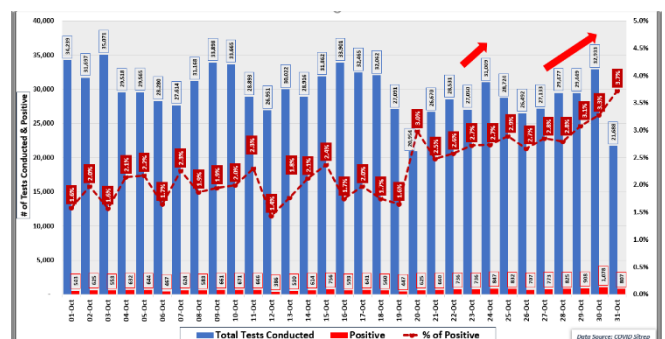
Provinces				Administrative Areas			Total
Balochistan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	Punjab	Sindh	Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)	Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)	Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)	
15,896	39,458	104,016	145,475	4,082	4,248	19,818	332,993

The tables below show the daily COVID-19 incidence/mortality and daily lab tests conducted in Pakistan as of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020<sup>1</sup>.



## 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 established the National Command and Operating Centre (NCOC) to synergize and articulate a unified national effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to implement NCC's decision. It also 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.



Under the Government of Pakistan Ehsaas Emergency Cash (social protection) initiative that started on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, PKR 179,209.50 million (US\$ 1,127.1 million) has been distributed as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, reaching 14,825,443 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. Coordinated by OCHA, humanitarian actors, including UNICEF, are working on developing the Pakistan Humanitarian Needs Overview which will feed into the Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan and will include the response to the mitigate against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## UNICEF 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:** UNICEF continues to provide leadership, coordination, and technical support to the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MNHSR&C) and its RCCE partners. This includes coordination of the 26<sup>th</sup> UN-RCCE task force meeting, composed of 8 UN agencies, as well as co-facilitating the bi-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.

**National Response:** Information messages were received by the population through TV, radio, WhatsApp and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) 632 million times through Government and UNICEF efforts.

### Evidence-based knowledge, understanding and planning

**Response:** In terms of public sentiment<sup>3</sup>, more Pakistanis (29 per cent) on social media are feeling positive about COVID-19 (Oct 15-30) than those feeling negative (12 per cent). The majority (60 per cent) remain neutral. The key driver of the positive sentiment is the global recognition of Pakistan's success against COVID-19. The key driver of negative sentiment is the appearance of COVID-19 cases in schools in Islamabad as well as in Sindh and KP provinces.

Community feedback is showing that despite varying levels of literacy and income, families continue to report a decline in preventive behaviors. Wearing a mask in public places (always or sometimes) has dropped from 78 to 69% between August and October, and practicing social distancing also dropped from 77% to 65% in the same period. Since mid-October, positive cases have been on the rise, triggering a fear from decision makers of yet another national surge of COVID-19 infections. Social and news media reveal an escalation in warnings and actions from public authorities regarding new outbreaks across the country. Mini-smart lockdowns have been imposed in Karachi and Islamabad, where large gatherings have been restricted. The Prime Minister and the Minister for Planning have called for increased preventive behaviors and made warnings of a second wave. This is heightened by the concern for increased infections during colder temperatures, where families merge closer and within tighter quarters.

Media reporting and government communication is revealing that many cases are spreading through super-spreading events occurring in poorly ventilated indoor environments, where many people are congregating without masks, such as weddings, funerals, mosques, public transportation, markets and other social events.

**Religious leaders' engagement:** Through existing polio alliances and the health programme 410,881 (81,887 new) religious leaders have been engaged and mobilized to promote the risk perception of the Corona virus, emphasize the importance of handwashing, use of mask and physical distancing as well as convincing other religious leaders on risk perception. The religious leaders use the information provided to talk to their followers during the Friday sermons and to make announcements in mosques with key preventive messages on COVID-19. During the reporting period a total of 410,881 mosque announcements were made. The religious leaders have been engaged in increasing risk perception related to COVID-19 and to promote both the polio campaigns and Essential Immunization (EI).

**Media, social-media, and production of educational materials (print/video):** Despite that engaging with communities through dialogue and public events remain the most effective method to interact with families, the RCCE task-force has recommended that we halt all such activities due to regulations on social distancing. This is especially relevant since very few wear masks. By default, mass media has become the most effective way to communicate with the population, as 81% say that national Radio and TV are their most trusted source of information for Covid-19. During this period, RCCE continues to broadcast a highly popular weekly radio show, *Kadam Kadam Sehat*. These weekly shows (50 min each) are broadcasted through Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), and through 41 radio channels. It is estimated that PBC reaches 83 million listeners.

Over the period from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October, UNICEF's Advocacy and Communication and Polio social media platforms have reached over 748,399 people per Facebook post with the number of total impressions reaching over 29 million (Facebook: 28.6 million, Twitter: 184,177 and Instagram: 219,469). Additionally, 6.98 million people were reached

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<sup>3</sup> Keyhole Social Media Sentiment Analysis (12 to 18 September 2020) / Statement by Dr Rana Jawad Asghar published 19 September 2020 / The News (19 September 2020) 'Lessons from Covid-19' / COVID-19 RCCE Brief 02 September 2020 / COVID-19 RCCE Brief 16 September 2020 / Statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus WHO Director-General published 07 September 2020 / UNICEF Behavior Pattern Insight from Anthropological and Social Data (19 September 2020) / COVID-19 RCCE Brief 29 June 2020

through WhatsApp. The number of people engaged through social media<sup>4</sup> is 7,077 per facebook post and the total number of engagements reached is 366,115 (Facebook: 355,694, Twitter: 3,428 and Instagram: 6,993).

Mobile vans, rickshaws and mobile floats were used in all provinces, including through polio and health structures, to disseminate messages on the importance of physical distancing, preventive behaviours, handwashing and hygiene. Cumulatively 22.6 million at risk people have been reached with preventive messages on COVID-19 with 2.6 million people reached during the reporting period. WhatsApp continues to be used as an important communication channel and has been used 297,109 times to date to reach people with information on risk perception, infection prevention and key practices related to COVID-19.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** The Polio helpline, now also used for COVID-19 purposes, receives nearly 15,000 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 help 'manage' the pandemic. It also informs callers on where they can get tested or get treatment for COVID-19, as well as receiving feedback from callers on their views and concerns which helps all partners and sectors to adjust their messaging accordingly. The helpline has received over 7.3 million calls and over 5.1 million calls have been responded to COVID-19 queries.

**Media orientation and mobilization:** A total of 181,110 (2,234 new) journalists, reporters and bloggers have been engaged at both federal and provincial level for promoting key messages on COVID-19 and to counter negative media and COVID-19 related myths. To counter the belief that corona virus is fake, journalists and reporters continued writing about the severity of the disease, importance of testing, early professional health seeking behaviours and the importance of physical distancing as well as key behaviours to follow, such as handwashing and general hygiene.

**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 on IPC through the UN IPC technical working group. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) to convene 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>

**Response:** UNICEF is supporting WASH/IPC interventions in 20 out of 27 high burden districts. To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities which include Ultraviolet (UV) water filters, toilets and handwashing stations in 578 (9 new) Healthcare Facilities (HCFs, Sindh: 38, KP: 94, Punjab: 373 and Balochistan: 73). More than 1.9 million people (200,000 new) have gained access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in these HCFs contributing towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among the healthcare workers. Over 8.6 million people (241,819 new) have been supported with hygiene promotion services including COVID-19 prevention and control information. Over 4.7 million (200,000 new) people have used the 1,776 (101 new) handwashing stations at communal points in affected areas. To date, UNICEF supported the training of 6,099 (196 new) frontline sanitary workers to enhance the capacity of sanitary and frontline health workers on WASH/IPC in HCFs and high-risk communities.

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<sup>4</sup> Definition of social media engagement includes likes, shares and retweets

To contribute to the safe school return for children, UNICEF is supporting WASH-IPC initiatives in 1,152 schools (Balochistan 232, Punjab 500, Sindh 120, KP 300) and to date 579 (151 new) schools have been reached (KP: 211, Punjab: 53, Balochistan: 90, Sindh: 225) with WASH – IPC services.

Under the coordination of MOCC, sector partners, including UNICEF have provided WASH services to 1,176 HCFs (93 new) reaching more than 6.3 million people (1.7 million new) with WASH services and to date 2,737 (302 new) handwashing stations (349 new) have been installed. Over 26 million people (over 3 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. To contribute to safe school return for children, sector is supporting WASH-IPC initiatives in 2,952 schools and to date 861 schools (397 new) have been reached (KP: 391, Punjab: 162, Balochistan: 70, Sindh: 238) with WASH – IPC services.

**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:** Coordination meetings of the Child protection sub-sector took place across the country. At the Federal level the meeting focused on integration of Gender Based Violence (GBV) concerns into the child protection sector response and related planning for 2021. In Sindh, the meeting focused on stigma prevention, while in Punjab exchanges focused on priority areas of interventions by the members. In KP, the sub-sector meeting facilitated the coordination of the flood response.

**Response:** To date, a total of 5,411 social workforce professionals (2,933 women and 2,478 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 1,072 trained during the reporting period (728 females and 344 males in Punjab, Balochistan and KP).

A total of 62,217 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (3,794 girls, 4,959 boys, 27,535 women, 25,929 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan and GB with 5,834 reached within the reporting period (Punjab: 2,782, KP: 1,120, Sindh: 771, Balochistan: 31 and GB: 1,130). This includes 1,135 Individuals (72 Girls, 33 Boys, 636 women and 394 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in Punjab, KP and Balochistan.

Stigma prevention messages reached 194,185 people during the reporting period increasing the total reach to 36,559,791 people. In addition, a total of 143,888 people (12,988 girls, 18,787 boys, 36,431 women, 75,682 men) were reached with messages on the prevention of violence against children and online safety in Sindh and Punjab provinces. This includes 121,757 people (12,715 girls, 18,374 boys, 21,295 women, 69,373 men) who were reached during this reporting period. Meanwhile, the total number of children who received child protection services supported by UNICEF in Sindh and Balochistan has reached 629 children (137 girls, 292 boys). This includes 207 (49 girls and 158 boys) who received services during the reporting period.

The second wave of the Rapid Response Study on the Impact of Confinement on Violence Against Children was completed in August 2020. The study showed that 44.6 per cent of respondents reported they believed people were screaming at or slapping their children more as a result of confinement. This represents around a 10 per cent increase from the previous study conducted in June. Also, stress due to lack of stable income and ability to work has increased by 8 per cent and is a key cause of stress for caregivers. While this reflects the long-term and global impact of COVID-19 on household incomes, it could also explain the perceived increase of violence to children within family settings.

Child Protection has also contextualized the global storybook on mental wellbeing for children during the pandemic to a local (Pakistan) version titled "Awesome Adventure of Afreen & Mittu" which will be distributed amongst children through partners in the coming weeks and will support ongoing MHPSS activities. The storybooks will be available for children as well as adolescents in English and Urdu languages.

**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, School of Leadership Foundation and PAHCHAAN (Protection and Help of Children Against Abuse and Neglect).

#### 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. During the reporting period, UNICEF participated in the Regional Working Group (RWG) Meeting on immunization. The RWG meeting on COVAX<sup>5</sup> updated the participants that clear guidelines and tools will be developed in the different thematic groups (RCCE, service delivery, cold chain / vaccine management, advocacy, adverse events following immunization, vaccine safety etc) and shared with member countries including Pakistan to guide monitoring, preparedness and trainings

UNICEF supported a workshop bringing together national and provincial EPI managers to develop and strengthen systems for vaccines and logistics. The key outcomes of the meeting were: two new ports of entry for vaccines i.e. Karachi and Lahore will be used in addition to Islamabad; ensuring the availability of diagnostic facilities at Primary Healthcare facilities and facilitating the rapid response to outbreaks.

**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 394,580 people in the reporting period (Balochistan:12,934; Sindh:169,009; KP: 1958; Punjab: 210,679 ) with a total reach of 2,458,736 since the onset of COVID-19. Measles immunization reached a total of 8,182 children (under 1 year) (Balochistan: 398; KP: 305; Sindh: 2,466; Punjab: 5013 ) during the reporting period with a total of 59,413 children vaccinated against measles in the 136 UNICEF supported health facilities. UNICEF has provided basic PPEs (gloves, sanitizers and masks) to 23,115 frontline health workers during the reporting period (Balochistan: 9200; Punjab: 7,215; Sindh: 6,000; and KP: 700 ) and reached a total of 119,987 frontline workers.

UNICEF supported IPC training reached 88,160 frontline health workers in total (1,974 trained in the reporting period) and supported the training of 81,761 frontline health workers and community volunteers on COVID-19 and case identification and referral of suspected cases (2,491 trained during reporting period).

**Partnerships:** MNHSR&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, Aga 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

**Coordination:** Sector coordination continued with 10 meetings taking place during the reporting period, two at National and eight at sub-national level in KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the MoNHSRC in coordination with UNICEF, Nutrition International (NI) and World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a Vitamin A (VA) task force meeting to discuss challenges and potential areas of concerns to improve the quality of the service. A key outcome of this meeting was the need for greater collaboration at province level between the Emergency operation center (EOC) and the nutrition team for more efficient planning. The next round of Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) campaign is scheduled for the first week of January 2021.

**Response:** During the reporting period, across Pakistan, a total of 2,743 UNICEF supported health sites provided nutrition services, an increase of 91 sites compared to previous report. Eighty-eight new Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment sites were opened in Sindh with UNICEF support during the reporting period, 40 new Outpatient

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<sup>5 5</sup> COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world

Therapeutic Programme (OTPs) in Hyderabad and 48 new sites in Shaheed Benazirabad). A total of 111,227 SAM children have been admitted for treatment with 23,611 children (12,723 girls and 10,888 boys) during the reporting period (Balochistan 2,685; Sindh 12,707; KP 3,752 and Punjab 4,467). Training on simplified Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) guidelines was provided to a total of 1,267 health care providers (457 in Sindh and 810 in Balochistan).

With UNICEF support, inter-personal communication on IYCF practices in the COVID-19 context reached 244,330 mothers/caregivers (Balochistan 19,186; Sindh 80,227; KP 23,010; Punjab 121,907) through counselling during the reporting period, reaching 1,073,003 in total.

In Sindh, in response to flood emergency, an integrated plan (Health and Nutrition) has been developed in consultation with local health authorities to provide services to 400,000 people including 53,200 children under the age of five year (25,749 girls and 27,451 boys), through 20 mobile teams in five flood affected districts. UNICEF in collaboration with provincial government and UNWFP conducted a 3-day training on Supply Chain and Warehouse Management in Karachi, and capacitated 47 district managers and logisticians. Improved supply chain management and warehousing practices will lead to better stock management that will benefit approximately 253,780 children in 13 districts. During the reporting period, UNICEF in partnership with People Primary Health Care Initiative (PPHI), trained 45 master trainers on Lactation Management and Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) from 9 districts in Sindh to benefit approximately 90,000 newborns. In Balochistan, two baby feeding corners have been established by the Provincial Nutrition Directorate, one at Quetta Airport and other one at City Court Quetta with the support of UNICEF in which the Parliamentary Secretary for Health attended as the chief guest.

#### **Partnerships:**

MNHSR&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, PPHI and Nutrition International (NI).

## **6 Education:**

**Coordination:** UNICEF is working in close coordination with federal, provincial education ministries/departments, humanitarian organizations, UN and development partners for safe school operations after return of students back to educational institutions. Safe school reopening guidelines are being implemented in coordination with the relevant education departments in provinces/areas following the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). In Sindh, a coordination meeting was held during the reporting period with the chair of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group to discuss the overall educational response to COVID-19 and for long term sustainability to include COVID-19 activities in the sector plan led by the Local Education Group (LEG) group.

**Response:** UNICEF has been supporting the Education departments in all the four provinces with safe return to schools and ensuring adherence to the SoPs. Following the phased school reopening, focus is now on monitoring of safe operation of schools through district monitoring committees that are continuously monitoring the implementation of safe school reopening at the school level. Safe school reopening guidelines have also been distributed to 14,668 schools across all the provinces.

Over 1.7 million School Management Committees (SMCs) members, teachers and education personnel have been reached with COVID-19 prevention messages via SMS, robocall and social media, including 140,000 during this reporting period. A total of 1,785 SMC members have been trained on safe school reopening, including 735 SMC members during this reporting period. Training on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools has reached 19,085 teachers, including 1,532 teachers during this reporting period.

As part of continuity of learning KP Education department has printed and distributed syllabus-based worksheets for grades 1 to 8 distributed to 72,848 primary and 14,694 elementary (grade 6-8) teachers. Additionally, in KP distribution of soaps is in process, in those schools where Parent Teacher Committees (PTCs) do not have valid bank accounts and are not able to receive funds from the government.



UNICEF supported the “School Safety Cell” (SSC) to install hand washing stations and to distribute 247 cartons of soap and hand sanitizers in 204 schools of Swat, Mansehra, Peshawar and Abbottabad as well displaying communication materials on preventive actions to take to mitigate the risk of transmission of the virus.

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

## Social Policy

**Coordination:** UNICEF is supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Unit of Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms for internal coordination of COVID-19 mitigation response efforts. The Unit provided technical assistance in convening all sectoral focal points including education, health, WASH and nutrition for developing action plans and strategies; provided key data and research based recommendations to high level officials for policy planning and response for COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The effort shall provide province specific recommendations for upstream engagement and advocacy on child centered budgeting.

District Profiles (DP) and Equity Profiles (EP) KP province: UNICEF under Social Policy is supporting Departments of Statistics for stakeholder coordination meetings in light of strict SoPs in observance for finalizing list of indicators for initial framework to determine deprivations and inequities across genders and income quintiles.

**Response:** UNICEF in consultation with key stakeholders organized a budgetary review and analysis of the Fiscal Budget 2020-2021. The key objective of the exercise is to present an analysis of the 2020-21 fiscal budget to highlight budgetary allocations in light of COVID-19 and present findings and analysis to sectoral teams, officials, stakeholders and solicit feedback for further discussion with key Government Departments. The effort aims to provide province specific recommendations for upstream engagement and advocacy on child centered budgeting in light of COVID-19.

In view of this, a round-table meeting of the Chairs of the Standing Committees (at National Assembly of Pakistan and Task-force Members of SDGs Secretariat) was organized on June 15<sup>th</sup> to present key findings and recommendations to the group of parliamentarians and officials. The intent of the policy advocacy based on study findings is to integrate child centred budgeting, reporting and monitoring processes into oversight and accountability role of Standing Committees on health, education, WASH and education. The policy deliberations also highlighted existing resource distribution priorities and mechanisms in light COVID-19. Most of the resource distribution priorities and mechanisms pointed to gaps in institutional capacities of Departments. at different tiers; limited use of data in planning and budgeting processes and complex inter departmental payment processes. The findings also pointed to debt servicing, low tax revenue and low production as key issues that impact pro child financing across the board.

The analysis was also presented for increased political and policy commitments for child centred budgeting for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 in the areas of health, education, social protection, nutrition and WASH by integrating them into the periodic agenda of relevant Standing Committee.

Similarly, provincial budget analysis for children sessions were held virtually with UNICEF staff and detailed discussions were organized in all provinces to get update on key findings of the “Public Finance for Children was presented for increased political and policy commitments for child centred budgeting for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22” province wise and next steps. The second phase of stakeholder consultation shall start soon in strict compliance with COVID-19 SoPs.

The Research and Evaluation team supported ROSA in Real Time Assessment (RTA) related to COVID-19 response which is implemented by ROSA in collaboration with Evaluation Office. The support includes; monitoring tracking sheet update, sharing the COVID-19 related studies, documents and coordination with programs for sharing profiles of government and other implementing partners, front-line workers, and representative beneficiaries.

The MICS data collection activities had to be delayed due to COVID-19 and to reduce possible face to face exposure between communities and field teams. The AJK-MICS<sup>6</sup> activities that were suspended have now restarted and the training is on-going following the SOPs after a break of almost 7 months.

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<sup>6</sup> multiple indicator cluster survey

**Partnerships:** Ministry and Dept. of Planning, Development and Reforms at national and provincial level SDG Parliamentary Task Force, National Assembly, Bureau of Statistics.

## Adolescent and Youth Development and Participation

**Coordination:** The five UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF) are building on their joint collaboration to promote sustainable adolescents and youth engagement in governance beyond COVID-19 response. In this regard, an Initiation meeting on Community of Practice (CoP) of the Youth Engagement was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The objective of this initiative is to bring together national and international organizations along with local youth-led organizations working on adolescents and youth issues in Pakistan to promote a long-term association and cooperation, on a platform with well-defined roles. The process includes developing a strategic actionable workplan with the sole objective of ensuring meaningful engagement of youth in mainstream development.

**Response:** The total number of trained ambassadors reporting the roll out of cascaded training and engagement with their peers, families and community members on COVID-19 increased from 120 to 130 during the reporting period. Together, the 130 ambassadors have trained 974 other young people who have reached 3,720 with key safety messages on keeping safe from COVID-19 infection.

Twenty eight young innovators who received their prize money on 22<sup>nd</sup> September also attended a second mentoring session on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October. Some of the innovators have shown good progress and effective utilization of their prize money with the help of mentors they are linked with. Some of the work of the young people have started and were shared during the second mentoring session. A 21-year-old young girl has developed informative video animations on COVID-19 and child protection to educate children and other young people. In collaboration with the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) in Lahore, she conducted sessions with both boys and girls in the facility with the animations and received good feedback from the children, teachers and psychologists of CPWB to improve the animations. Final video animations will be loaded on a mobile application device she is developing. With the economic impact of COVID-19 on family incomes especially vulnerable groups, an 18-year-old girl has started her own Instagram page by the name of *Mukhtalif* (urdu meaning: *different*) in which she helps to advertise online, goods and services produced of minority groups. Her first client was from the transgender community who designed seven embroidered shirts. This young girl handled logistics, packaging, and deliveries of the finished goods which sold out quickly and the money given to the client.



*Bibi Aziz, a Girl Guide from Hunza trained as an ambassador sharing COVID precautions with senior members of society*

**Partnerships:** School of Leadership Foundation, Viamo, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNHCR.

## Supply and Procurement Services

A total of US\$ 75 million worth of supplies and services have been committed from UNICEF's own resources in response to COVID-19 outbreak including procurement 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 centre and consultancy services. This also included procurement for safe reopening of schools, to include PPEs, IPC materials and supported WASH construction activities, including in schools and health facilities.

The Government of Pakistan, through MoNHSRC nominated UNICEF as a Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) Responding Agency to implement the allocation of US\$ 15 million in support of the procurement of COVID-19 supplies. The COVID-19 supplies to be procured includes, diagnostics equipment, PPEs and oxygen concentrators. UNICEF is reviewing the products specifications in collaboration with MoNHSRC and National Institute of Health (NIH) to finalize the procurement list.

UNICEF Pakistan and MNHSR&C signed the Pandemic Response Effectiveness in Pakistan (PREP) agreement with a total value of US\$ 70 million funded by World Bank for 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, diagnostics equipment, clinical management equipment, medicines, vehicles, ambulances in support of designated hospitals and laboratories in the major cities across the country, laboratories, quarantine centres, entry points, isolation facilities with the aim of strengthening health system.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF launched the National Nutrition Survey together with the MoNHSR&C in Islamabad. The event was broadcasted live online and social media content disseminated via UNICEF social media channels. UNICEF supported the MoNHSR&C to launch the Pakistan Adolescent Nutrition Strategy as well.

For Global Handwashing Day, UNICEF released an animated video with a message from the cartoon character Captain Care; disseminated online content promoting handwashing with soap and adherence to the other COVID-19 lifesaving behaviours; and the UNICEF Representative published an Op-Ed in daily newspaper The News.

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, UNICEF reinforced the need to stay #SafeAtSchool by adhering to COVID-19 preventive behaviours through video messages and other social media content. An Op-Ed by the UNICEF Executive Director and European Commissioner for International Partnerships, on the need to get children back to school and invest in their education was published in daily newspaper 'The Express Tribune'.

UNICEF reinforced the need for parents to resume vaccinating their children (routine immunization) despite COVID-19 through a video and other content disseminated on social media around the theme #VaccinesWork. UNICEF also participated in the Clean Green Index Encouragement Award ceremony presided by Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad as part of the 'Clean Green Pakistan' campaign which UNICEF supports together with the Ministry of Climate Change.

UNICEF celebrated International Day of the Girl by publishing an Op-ed by the UNICEF Representative in the newspaper 'The Express Tribune' and by disseminating inspiring video messages of girls and young women who are thriving in their careers (e.g. space educator); photos and messages of girls who act as changemakers in their communities (e.g. young climate activists); and photos and messages of fathers who empower their daughters to study and succeed, all around this year's theme 'My voice, our equal future'. UNICEF continued to publish photos and messages of children, adolescents and young people encouraging their peers to wear a mask and adhere to COVID-19 lifesaving behaviours as part of the #PakYouthDiaries initiative.

## LINKS

### GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

**Video:** [www.facebook.com/169948489692063/videos/3694525427247794](https://www.facebook.com/169948489692063/videos/3694525427247794)

**Captain care video message:** <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=790703998162261>

**Op-ed in 'The News':** [www.thenews.com.pk/print/729428-the-first-line-of-defence?fbclid=IwAR1tdO4K\\_fKBNA\\_hm5iFPsDeiNzdA3GqEPNnsBNhuSOdk2Y3R6kxlr2Pc2w](http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/729428-the-first-line-of-defence?fbclid=IwAR1tdO4K_fKBNA_hm5iFPsDeiNzdA3GqEPNnsBNhuSOdk2Y3R6kxlr2Pc2w)

### NATIONAL NUTRITION SURVEY LAUNCH

**Video of the live broadcast:** [www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/3456107114445613](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/3456107114445613)

### CLEAN GREEN PAKISTAN AWARDS CEREMONY

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=c87BWDkJnzc&feature=youtu.be&t=19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c87BWDkJnzc&feature=youtu.be&t=19)

### VACCINE CAMPAIGN (EPI)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/347948939652361](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/347948939652361)

### WORLD TEACHERS DAY: #SafeAtSchool

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/654613128526622](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/654613128526622)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3517034161650129/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3517034161650129/)  
[www.instagram.com/p/CF9nWXihpIU/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CF9nWXihpIU/)

**Op-Ed by ED Henrietta Fore and EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen on Education:**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2269723/get-children-back-to-school-but-business-as-usual-is-no-option?fbclid=IwAR2CMoans4b1ZM6NQhATco1Vgf95alktghItJyebgGjryRW4vwMezv6eZ2Q>

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL**

**Op-Ed in 'The Express Tribune':** [https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268082/my-voice-our-equal-future?fbclid=IwAR1tdO4K\\_fKBNA\\_hm5iFPsDeiNzdA3GqEPNnsBNhuSOdk2Y3R6kxlr2Pc2w](https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268082/my-voice-our-equal-future?fbclid=IwAR1tdO4K_fKBNA_hm5iFPsDeiNzdA3GqEPNnsBNhuSOdk2Y3R6kxlr2Pc2w)

**Young women thriving in their careers:**

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/365341637951196](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/videos/365341637951196)  
[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3526208047399407/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3526208047399407/)  
[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3538030519550493/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3538030519550493/)

**Girls making a change in their communities:**

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3529122053774673/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3529122053774673/)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3532470156773196/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3532470156773196/)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3532360130117532/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3532360130117532/)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3534999003186978/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3534999003186978/)

**Fathers supporting their daughters to study & thrive:**

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3535578103129068/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3535578103129068/)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3526957040657841/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3526957040657841/)

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3529672990386246/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3529672990386246/)

**Other**

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/pcb.3534972399856305/3534970019856543](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/pcb.3534972399856305/3534970019856543)

## **PAK YOUTH DIARIES**

[www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3537815316238680/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefpakistan/photos/a.191248050895440/3537815316238680/)  
[www.instagram.com/p/CGCEKTuhwj/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CGCEKTuhwj/)

## **Funding**

UNICEF Pakistan needs US\$ 50.2 million to support the COVID-19 humanitarian action in the country. The office received US\$ 20.06 million (40 per cent) for the humanitarian response. A substantial funding gap of US\$ 30.14 million (60 per cent) persists to provide required essential services nationwide. Additional funds have been received from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide Nutrition services for SAM children affected with COVID-19 in Balochistan. Funds received include US\$ 5.01 million existing resources/programmes re-purposed for COVID-19 from the European Union FCDO 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	1 924 802	2 332 920	30%
Continuity of Education and Learning	3 350 000	420 655	792 650	2 136 695	64%
Nutrition	5 625 000	4 165 663	107 468	1 351 869	24%
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>\$14 958 535</b>	<b>\$5 099 986</b>	<b>\$30 141 479</b>	<b>60%</b>

Next SitRep: 1 December, 2020<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> UNICEF will be issuing monthly sitreps from now onwards

## 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	748,399	438,476 ▼	3,500,000	748,399	438,476 ▼
Number of people engaged through social media***	15,000	7,077	21,970 ▼	650,000	7,077	21,970 ▼
Number of at-risk populations reached through community engagement	201,066,962	22,668,831	2,561,325 ▲	201,066,962	38,519,293	2,561,325 ▲
Number of members of religious leaders engaged in promoting key messages	345,000	410,881	81,887 ▲	345,000	453,417	81,887 ▲
Number of media practitioners oriented on reporting on COVID-19	40,000	181,110	2,234 ▲	50,000	181,110	2,234 ▲
Number of calls received from helpline	16,000,000	7,303,499	85,030 ▲	16,000,000	7,303,499	85,030 ▲
Number of calls from helpline responded to	11,000,000	5,181,823	103,356 ▲	11,000,000	5,181,823	103,356 ▲
<b>Infection Prevention and Control (WASH)</b>						
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services.	900	578	9 ▲	1,500	1176	93 ▲
Number of people at high risk of COVID-19 supported with hygiene promotion activities and facilities	10,000,000	8,613,336	241,819 ▲	25,000,000	26,100,000	3,050,000 ▲
Number of community sites with handwashing facilities in the affected areas	1,800	1,776	101 ▲	3,000	2,737	302 ▲
# of schools in targeted high-risk areas supported with IPC measures and improved water and sanitation	700	579	151 ▲	2,500	861	397 ▲
<b>Psychosocial Support and Child Protection</b>						
Number of affected people, including children, who received psycho-social support	63,400	62,217	5,834 ▲	83,400	65,080	5,834 ▲
Number of social and care workers trained on psychosocial support and stigma reduction ***	6,000	5,411	1,072 ▲	6,500	5,509	1,072 ▲
Number of people reached with stigma prevention messages	50,000,000	36,559,791	194,185 ▲	60,000,000	36,559,791	194,185 ▲
Number of children (boys and girls) and adolescents (boys and girls) who receive child protection services supported by UNICEF (Response)	700	629	207 ▲	700	629	207 ▲
Number of people (children and adults) reached with prevention messages on VAC including online safety	560,000	143,888	121,757 ▲	933,000	143,888	121,757 ▲
<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	1,708,347	140,000 ▲	5,000,000	1,708,347	28,215 ▲
Number of parents reached with messages encouraging learning activities through SMS	5,000,000	277,977	0	8,000,000	354,864	0
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	1,785	735 ▲	12,000		735 ▲
Number of teachers trained on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools	100,000	19,085	1,532 ▲	130,000	527,467	509,601 ▲
<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	2,458,736	394,580 ▲			
Number of children < 1 vaccinated against Measles	170,000	59,413	8,182 ▲			
Number of frontline health workers reached with basic PPEs (masks, gloves and hand sanitizers)	120,000	119,987	23,115 ▲			
Number of frontline workers trained on infection prevention and control	100,000	88,160	1,974 ▲			
Number of frontline health workers and community volunteers oriented on COVID-19 and referral of suspected cases	100,000	81,761	2491 ▲			
<b>Nutrition</b>						
Number of sites which are safe for service providers and patients.	3,000	2,734	91 ▲	3,500	3,342	91 ▲
Number of mothers and care givers at high risk of infection supported with IYCF and hygiene promotion.	1,110,747	1,073,003	244,330 ▲	4,369,244	1,301,878	256,377 ▲
Number of children treated for SAM without complication in a safe environment at health facility	277,630	111,227	23,611 ▲	584,098	154,935	28,155 ▲

\*For RCCE sector results: UN agencies are not doing COVID-19 activities anymore therefore the sector results only show UNICEF contribution.

\*\* 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.

\*\*\* There was a typo error in the previous results of Sector which is corrected this time around.

\*\*\*\* From 15th September schools across Pakistan have been opened in a phased manner and children have been returned to schools following strict protocols. UNICEF has been supporting the Education department in safe return to schools and interventions related to alternate learning opportunities are being slowly phased out and not being expanded therefore no increase reported under the indicator."