

DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION UNIT

Kyrgyzstan: COVID-19 response

Bi-monthly situation update

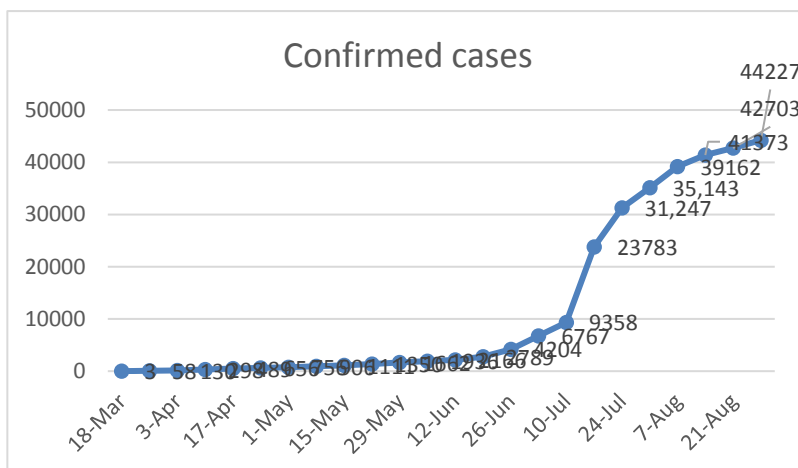
Date: 18 September 2020

Key statistics

As of 18 September, 2020

Total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 U07.1 and U07.2	45,244
New cases of COVID-19 U07.1 and U07.2	91
The number of human losses	1,063
The number of recovered cases	41,415

Confirmed cases



SITUATION UPDATE

On 18 March 2020 the first three cases were recorded in the Kyrgyz Republic that were detected among those, who returned from Umra pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Kyrgyzstan's Security Council recommended the state of emergency on 22 March, and the Government subsequently imposed stricter measures, placing checkpoints in every region and city, and shutting down facilities (cafes, cinemas, shopping malls, and other entertainment places), leaving only grocery stores, food markets, pharmacies, and medical facilities. Over the following weeks, the number of confirmed cases increased slowly by single-digit or lower double-digit figures per day. Strict quarantine ended in mid-May and facilities started to work. As of 18 September 2020, 45,244 cases of COVID-19 U07.1 and U07.2 have been confirmed in Kyrgyzstan, of which 41,415 have recovered. According to revised statistics by Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic 1,063 deaths have been registered. According Shtab as of 18 September, the number of patients who are in hospitals is 547 people. The total number of medical staff diagnosed with COVID-19 is 3,188 cases, of which 4 medical workers have recovered per day. In total, 2,506 medical workers have recovered.

FUNDING UPDATE

Priority sectors	Required (USD)	Received (USD)	% of funding
Health	15,800,000	15,800,000	100%
Food security and Logistics	13,429,000	4,449,000	33.13%
WASH and NFI	1,400,000	67,000	4.78%
Protection	1,187,000	607,000	51.14%
Education	661,600	653,800	98.82%
Early Recovery	18,864,000	2,647,653	14.03%
Total	51,341,600	24,224,453	47%

PROGRESS -47 %



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period according to National Shtab information below assistance was provided by Government.

Government assistance

- As of 3 September, monetary compensation of 1 million soms was sent to 18 families of dead doctors. A total of 34 cases are considered and analyzed. In all institutions where death is registered, a special Commission has been created.

¹ U07.1 — Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 (PCR positive).

² U07.2 — COVID-19, confirmed by clinical and epidemiological (community-acquired pneumonia).

COVID-19

- From February to 28 August, 19,584 specialists in the republic took advanced training courses at the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for retraining and advanced training. 403 laboratory assistants of the preanalytical laboratory were trained in rapid testing and PCR. Preparations are under way to provide new hospitals with staff.
- In the Osh region, the construction of a hospital for 150 beds has been completed and is equipped with the necessary equipment.
- It is planned to resume regular domestic flights to Jalal-Abad and Batken at Manas International Airport. The flight on the Bishkek-Batken-Bishkek route is scheduled to resume on September 15, 2020, once a week - on Tuesdays. Bishkek-Jalal-Abad-Bishkek from 18 September 2020, once a week - on Fridays. Flights will be operated by Tez Jet airlines.

Name of Ministry	Received to date (KGS)	Spent to date (KGS)	Balance (KGS)
Ministry of Health of Kyrgyz Republic	141,628,123	134,044,425	7,583,698
Ministry of Labor and Social Development of Kyrgyz Republic	17,427,047	16,139,996	1,287,051
Mayor's Office of Bishkek city	12,203,516	10,429,273	1,774,243

SECTORS RESPONSE

EARLY RECOVERY

Needs:

- Support 620,100 vulnerable population
- Restore livelihoods and employment.
- Resolve border conflict and social cohesion in border areas
- Support returning migrants
- Safe elections in October 2020

620,100

People targeted

Response:

Assessments and researches

- UNDP in cooperation with ADB and the Ministry of Economy was finalized Socio-economic impact assessment results. The results have been shared with national partners.
- Palladium conducted an assessment in the textile sector and presented it to sector members.
- Palladium and Helvetas conducted assessments in agriculture and tourism sectors.
- Youth needs assessment is completed by UN Youth thematic group members (UNFPA, UNICEF, RCO, UNDP, FAO, UNHCHR, UNESCO, ILO)
- IOM conducted an assessment on Migrant and remittances related to COVID-19 showing that labor migrant facing difficult conditions (living condition, access to basic services)
- WFP and the World Bank shared findings of Rapid Household food security and vulnerability impact respectively
- ACTED/UNDP Needs assessments on MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in rural and urban areas completed, showing 94% of MSMEs took a phone survey report a negative impact in sales decrease, discontinue of business and export goods.
- UNDP is preparing a development finance assessment to support governments and partners to take a more integrated approach to SDG financing along with recovery of the impact of COVID-19.
- UNDP is preparing Readiness assessment of hospitals and medical mobile units to implement the healthcare waste management system
- UNDP is preparing market opportunity assessment

Activities

- ACTED and USAID is implementing FHI360 providing legal aid to MSMEs
- Helvetas EU and EBRD implementing solid waste management activities in Bishkek and Osh
- UNDP handed over 25,000 surgical masks funded by KOICA to the Ministry of Emergency Situation for COVID-19 response.
- UNDP is procuring sets of video conferencing equipment funded by KOICA for MOES's COVID-19 response and emergency management
- UNDP and UNICEF completed the first online hackathon in Kyrgyzstan to support entrepreneurs. 3 projects announced as winners of, the projects provide solutions for domestic violence, psychological support, and education for children

- Implementing activity of improvement of water and wastewater systems (EU/EBRD)
- Humanitarian Cash Transfers was done in urban and rural areas (Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent)
- Implementing Advance Passenger Information Systems (APIS) to monitor passengers arriving (IOM)
- UNDP in partnership with the State ICT Agency and High Technology Park completed innovation competition to address the negative effect of COVID-19. A total of 71 ideas were submitted and 2 ideas will be supported by UNDP (1. Involving hearing-impaired children to digital learning systems 2. telemedicine on-demand service for online-appointments with experienced doctor)
- Helvetas will start to implement activities in the service of waste management and water. The detailed project progress will be shared with Early recovery partners.
- UNDP is procuring sanitizers and PPEs to support safe elections by providing to poll workers and voters.
- Early Recovery forum is being prepared aiming tentatively for mid-september
- UNDP provide 3sets conference equipment to MOES for crisis management
- Early Recovery partners will continue to support affected communities and national partners in basic services, livelihood, Migrant and social cohesion
- UNDP support to Consular Department in increasing delivering of consular services to labor migrants
- UNSP implementing a project to increase economic efficiency of fertile land through drip irrigation and water saving rehabilitation projects in Batken
- UNDP support MOES and Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in collection of information and updating on COVID-19 in Central Asian countries, conduct regional forum to develop joint action plans to responds COVID-19 pandemic

Programming and coordination

- UNDP and UNCT in coordination with RC finalized the joint UN socioeconomic response and recovery framework
- DPCC, DRCU, and an Early Recovery sector lead is consolidating data of the WG4 and DRCU sector members
- UNDP and Early recovery sector partners conduct regular meetings
- UNDP has started to implement an inclusive and multi-sectoral response to COVID-19 project (funded by Japan)
- Multi partner trust fund programme is being develop in cooperation with UNCT

Gaps & Constraints:

- A wide range of negative impacts on the soci economy
- Border disputes and limited cross border trade
- Reduction in remittance and lack of access to digital solutions to MSMEs
- Increasing returnees

EDUCATION

Needs:

- Approx. 2.4 million children and young people are affected by the educational facility closure and in need of remote learning.
- The 1st grade students have started face-to-face schooling from 1 September. Supply support is needed for schools to meet the sanitary-hygienic requirements.
- More than 100,000 teachers are in need of clear instructions and capacity for providing and monitoring remote learning.
- Approx. 500,000 parents/caregivers are in need of recommendations on how to effectively spend time with and support learning of children at home.

2.5M

People targeted

Response:

- Approximately 1,100 video lessons were filmed out of 1,785 needed for the 1st quarter of new school year 2020-2021 based on the Remote Learning Preparation Plan of the Ministry of Education and Science. Partner organizations are supporting the process according to the agreed standard fee for the production of video lessons (e.g. payment for studios, teachers, translators).
- Accessibility and equity analysis of remote learning for the previous school year (April – May 2020) is underway.
- WASH in pre-schools and schools needs assessment has been completed with a response rate of 75% of 3,900 pre-schools and schools across the country. The report will be shared widely among stakeholders once finalized.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Based on the WASH needs assessment results, reopening guideline for schools need to be developed and necessary WASH and PPE equipment/supplies are planned to be procured. >> Funding gap: TBC
-

Needs:

- 500,000 require immediate direct food assistance. It is estimated that about 1.83 million people will require food or cash assistance
- 400,000 smallholder farmers in need of support to sustain and maintain agriculture season 2020

500,000

People targeted

Response:

- During the COVID-19 crisis, WFP and FAO is continuing to support the Government on food security management and policy development including food access and availability; social protection; strengthening the assessment of the national socio-economic situation; and the monitoring of food security in the country in order to plan response appropriate activities.
- The Office of the Prime Minister established four working groups, including high-level representatives from government ministries and agencies, to attract external assistance to overcome the significant impact of the novel coronavirus on the economy. WFP is coordinating donors' efforts on behalf of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Food Security Working Group to ensure that the Kyrgyz Republic has the resources, systems and tools in place to address the food and nutrition needs of its population, with a special focus on its most vulnerable and poor.
- April-June. The DPCC Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition conducted the regular meetings to support the anti-crisis plan. On 12 May, the DPCC Working Group invited the Minister of Labour and Social Development Mr. Kochkorov to present and discuss an overview of the support that the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD) was providing to vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 breakout.
- January-December. WFP is conducting and distributing a weekly Food Price Monitoring Bulletin that covers 18 markets across the country and the food security situation analysis to track food security trends and the operations of food markets. This monitoring provides a detailed overview of food access and availability to facilitate the Government's and partners' work within food security.
- In April and May, WFP together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development completed distribution of 2,041 mt of food rations to 71,135 beneficiaries for their participation in various WFP community projects. The unified ration distributed was 150 KG of fortified wheat flour and 15 litres of vegetable oil per family. Additionally, in early August, WFP distributed 122 mt of food to 3,862 beneficiaries. All food distributions are being organized through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, and local Heads of sub-districts and villages. WFP also provides PPE items for all WFP-related food distributions.
- In April and June, due to the closure of schools starting from 16 March until the end of the school year in May, WFP worked jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) on a contingency plan for the utilization of dedicated food assistance under the Optimized School Meals Programme. As regular school meals were suspended, both entities decided to redistribute the wheat flour that was previously allocated to the schools to vulnerable children identified by the MoES with the MLSD. More than 38,500 primary school children around the country received on average of 4kg and a maximum of 9kg of wheat flour as a take-home ration from WFP.
- May. WFP conducted a Rapid Household Food Security Assessment to provide a snapshot of households' exposure to shocks and stresses in view of the slow onset of the COVID-19 emergency, as well as the effects of seasonal issues that affect food security.
- May-August. WFP is providing technical assistance to the MLSD to improve the portal 1227.tunduk.kg which has been designed to facilitate the applications of vulnerable groups of the population for food assistance.
- May. WFP facilitated an information exchange between the Emergency Management Units of Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces on COVID-19 response measures implemented by the authorities as well as to assess the needs of the population residing in those areas. In addition, WFP launched a database to analyze the state of emergency in the south of the country. The database will provide the necessary analysis for any rapid needs assessments to plan emergency intervention and to improve WFP overall preparedness.
- In May and June, WFP, with funding from the Swiss Embassy, implemented an emergency food assistance project in support of vulnerable people living in 22 social inpatient institutions - the elderly, people with disabilities (PwD) and orphans. Each resident of the institution was provided with 75 kg of fortified wheat flour and 8 liters of oil per person, including PPE (Personal protective equipment) items. Food distributions were following with online training and consultations of COVID-19 preventive measures.
- In June-September, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WFP Optimized School Meals Programme and its cooperating partner, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), are developing an online training module for cooks of the eighth round of programme schools that will launch school feeding in September 2020. The new format of the cooks training will be a livestreamed training resource that will ensure provide an interactive experience between the school cooks and the trainers.
- Recommendations on the appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding were developed, approved by the Experts Council of the Ministry of Health on 6 April 2020, and delivered to regional health coordinators for further dissemination (210,000 copies) to maternal and new-born facilities, and health promotion units of the family medicine centres nationwide.

COVID-19

- Support for the continuation of existing essential nutrition services, including the procurement of essential nutritional supplies to vulnerable children and pregnant women, was determined. A funding request was submitted to the World Bank.
- In May-June, FAO provided technical assistance to MoA in development of road map as well as action plan for the new national import substitution program to ensure food security and to be less dependent on foreign food imports.
- In June, FAO in partnership with WFP completed online agronomic consultations for selected agronomists from the 4 rayons (Batken, Suzak, Kara-Suu and Kochkor) affected from COVID-19 and climate shocks.
- Upon the Government's requests, FAO provided support to vulnerable farmers and households in provision with 134 tons of fertilizers, 24.5 tons of fuel, seeds, plants, poultry development, procurement of IT-equipment.
- In June, FAO delivered 300 mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses, set of vegetable seeds for 300 beneficiaries in Naryn oblast (Zhumgal, Naryn, At-Bashy and Ak-Talaa rayons) and 30 kgs of sweet corn for more than 300 beneficiaries in Suzak, Nookat and Kadamjai rayons affected by COVID-19 in the south region within the UN Joint Programme on ARWEE (UN Women, WFP, IFAD and FAO)
- FAO conducts weekly online consultations with SHGs jointly with UN Women and FAO continued to provide field and on-line consultancy services (through WhatsApp groups) and technical (agronomic) support for beneficiaries during the growing season. (JP ARWEE)
- In May-June FAO conducted agronomic trainings on vegetable production technologies for the selected SHGs (300 beneficiaries) from 12 pilot villages in Naryn oblast (Zhumgal, Naryn, At-Bashy and Ak-Talaa rayons). (JP ARWEE)
- FAO is providing support for preparedness and emergency response to locust infestations in the Kyrgyz Republic. FAO provided pesticides and Test-mate ChE Cholinesterase Test System and AChE Erythrocyte Cholinesterase Assay kit. Briefing sessions to spraying staff on spraying operations and pesticide risk reduction as well as Monitoring missions on the impact of locust control are being conducted in the fields.
- FAO provided support in carp production season mentoring / training: 31.4 million common carp eggs produced; and 50,000 trout eggs to Typ fish famers cooperative and 120,000 trout eggs to Toktogul fish farmers cooperative.
- FAO supported with provision of seeds for spring and winter sowing, seedlings, fertilizers, fuels, IT equipment; introduction of best practices (drip irrigation systems, mini-greenhouses, toolkit for family poultry farms) and technologies (soil protection, development of seed production and resource conservation), as well as trainings, assessments and consultations, including weekly online consultations to SHG on agricultural production to respond to the COVID-19 impact;
- FAO supports with introduction of best practices and technologies including relevant trainings in the field of agriculture; capacity building in the field of disaster risk reduction/ adaptation to climate change; and preparedness and emergency response to locust infestations through anti-locust treatments on 360 960 ha on the territory of Kyrgyzstan.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is an urgent need to raise 8.4 million USD to cover the two months food requirement of about 500,000 most poor and vulnerable in the country during June-July 2020.
- There is urgent need to mobilize 2.5 million USD in support of smallholder farmers to sustain and maintain agriculture season 2020 with a focus on ensuring their access to seeds, labor, fertilizer and livelihood care due to restrictions set during this crisis.
- UNICEF re-programmed some funds to meet immediate covid19 related needs and planning implementation with cooperating partners. While this will meet some urgent needs, however, the activities still face 530,000 USD gap.
- Provision of extension services (trainings and consultations) via online have been prioritized in times of crises, systematic approach should be applied at national level
- Not all smallholder farmers have adequate access to the digitalized technology applications (ZOOM, skype including smartphones) to participate in online trainings as well as consultations

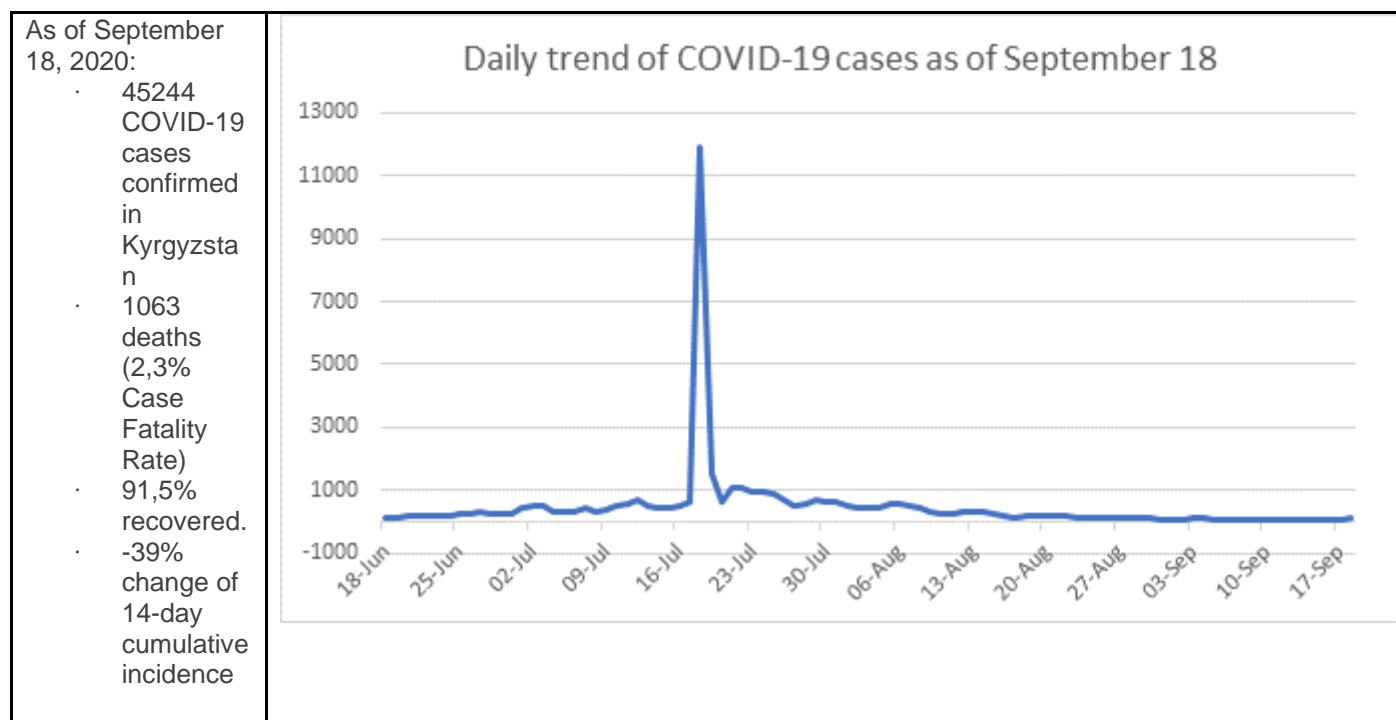
HEALTH

Progress:

- Health partners continue to support capacity building interventions to strengthen COVID response and support the maintenance of essential health services including immunization, non-communicable disease management, reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support
- WHO supporting Kyrgyzstan to conduct sero-epidemiological study.
- WHO provided trainings on PCR testing and biosafety risk assessment.
- WHO delivered PCR test kits for 50000 tests.
- Partners continue support to strengthen communication, awareness raising at facility and community level. Support to production of tailored material to address priority risks.
- Partners continue to support the provision of essential supplies and equipment.

6.2
MILLION
People targeted

Epidemiological update:



Needs:

- Provision of Laboratory supplies and reagents
- Continue Trainings of health specialists
- Community awareness and adherence to public health measures

PROTECTION

Needs:

- Monitoring and intervening on the digital divide for most vulnerable children in the access to education in cooperation with the DRCU sector.

1.5
MILLION
People targeted

Response:

- Crisis centres continues to provide online consultation to GBV survivors. During the last month, they provided 299 online and 56 offline consultations and during September additional 73 online consultations were provided (as of September 15). Crisis centers also continue to provide legal support to GBV survivors before, during the court processes.
- At the present, three women are placed in a temporary safe and additional three women are supported with food and other basic supplies.
- On September 18, there was an online consultation for the staff of crisis centers on topic of the consultations is related to accepting GBV survivors at the “safe space” and sanitary epidemiological requirements during quarantine together with the coordinator service centre #118
- Upon the request from the hotline #112 of the Ministry of Emergency, its staff (55 people) will receive a 2-days training on how the work with GBV survivors during quarantine for Osh and Bishkek cities.
- The draft of Unified instruction on MSR mechanism to GBV cases in emergency has been submitted to the members of the Interagency working group under the Ministry of Labor and social development and it is now under review.
- The smart - fairytale website to support parents-children interactions is ready and can be accessed through phone via www.smartjomok.kg Among the available stories One helps parents to builds closer bonds with their children through reading these fairy tales and discussing them, as such developing skills and competencies of self-awareness, expression communication, empathy etc. Another one is labyrinth fairy -tale which also help developing competencies of critical thinking, innovation etc. A the third one is for kids to read on their own and learn such skills of courage, commitment, kindness.

Gaps and constraints:

- Staff shortage in ministries and organizations delaying finalization of study of children in residential institutions.

- Lack of centralized and electronic data on vulnerable children.
- Unavailability of sufficient pool of quality psychosocial support.

WASH

Needs:

- WASH needs analysis to be conducted in Schools- done.
- WASH needs analysis to be conducted in Health facilities ongoing.
- Provide Support to local services (waste, water) to maintain the operations
- Support the major cities with the public awareness on COVID-19 related measures
- Strengthen IPC related activities in health, public and school facilities
- Provide IPC/WASH trainings across the country to the staff of most critical HCFs
- Provide additional toilets and showers in Maternity hospitals and in COVID-19 dedicated facilities.

500,000

Targeted people

Response:

UNICEF:

- WASH assessments: Schools assessment of all public schools are done. The private school are unassessed since are closed. It will be done until October and will be included in EMIS. 22% of the total number of schools are not assessed (mainly kindergarten)
- Health assessment process: The assessment has already started. 155 health facilities will be assessed and by mid-August there will be results.
- Baby Hygiene kits were delivered to #2 Maternity hospital in Bishkek-120 kits, Osh oblast maternity ward – 40 kits, Osh City Maternity hospital – 40 kits)
- Prefabricated Showers: 5 Prefabricated showers will be delivered early next week to Osh and Bishkek maternity hospitals as following;
- for Osh oblast maternity ward- 2 showers and 2- Electric water heater (boiler) "Termeks" 80L
- for Osh perinatal center- 2 showers and 2- Electric water heater (boiler) "Termeks" 80L
- for Bishkek maternity ward #2- 1 shower and 1- Electric water heater (boiler) "Termeks" 80L
- UNICEF and IOM are planning to deliver 500 FHK for retiring migrants as soon as colleagues from IOM provide data on returned migrants and their needs.
- 500 FHK are stored in UNICEF warehouse in Osh for immediately request from the government
- UNICEF revised the request to rehabilitate the oxygen generators from Osh maternity hospital, however due to critical staff being sick the procedure is postponed for now.
- Applied to donors the funding 500,000 EURO for rehabilitating WASH infrastructures of maternity hospitals in Osh and Bishkek
- UNICEF plans training and to provide equipment for IPC (infection prevention control)

Helvetas

- Implements COVID-19 response public service improvement project such as financial support (drinking water providers, waste management providers) for 40 municipalities
- Starts communication activities between the municipalities and citizens related to health protection measures and the need services for citizens

Red Crescent

- In partnership with German Red Cross and Ministry of Health of KR planning to support 220 health facilities with hygiene kits

AKF

- Funding to support 30 kindergartens and 70 schools to start traditional teaching process:
- - Developing The Hand Book for teachers and caregivers on hygiene rules
- - Conducting trainings for them
- - Support with hygiene kits/tools all these facilities

Mercy Corps

- WASH supplies are delivered to 116 schools: 1929 flask a liquid soap, 9647 pack paper towel, 168 pcs dispenser for the soap, 168 pcs dispenser for the towel
- WASH Information materials as posters and brochures are printed for the same 116 schools, and its delivery is pending reopening of the schools
- Installed new 1,426 hand washing stations with electrical water heaters in 33 schools
- 230 family hygiene & sanitation kits with basic WASH supplies are distributed to in Uzgen and Bazarkorgon districts
- Construction of 27 new outdoor latrines and repair of 15 in-door latrines are on-going at the same number of schools.
- Donated 3-5 month amount of hygiene& sanitation & WASH supplies to three maternity hospitals that are providing care to pregnant women and women in labor with COVID19: Maternity Hospital #2 in Bishkek and two maternity

hospitals in Osh city. This assistance was done in response to the request letter from the Min of Health, and total amount of assistance is \$20,000 USD.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH remains the most underfunded sector
- No constant or almost no information or requests for assistance is provided/coming from central Shtab.
- No analysis/studies/assessments available on WASH in Schools and Health facilities at the country level
- The support will be provided based on immediate funding availability and through reprogramming of ongoing projects where appropriate.
- No centralized approach for assistance request and distribution.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The Government established in January 2020 a special stab (coordination center) under the Prime Minister. The Republican Shtab supported by two shtabs on health and socio-economic response. The Republican stab consists of all line ministries responsible for COVID-19 response. To develop proposals for implementation of measures aimed at attracting external assistance to overcome the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic established expert working groups in the four areas.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoES) is the operational branch for the Government's Republican stab to coordinate all kinds of emergencies. MoES operates in collaboration with other line ministries, the territorial government bodies, local authorities, international and non-governmental organizations, directly and through subordinate bodies.

Even before the first COVID-19 cases were recorded, the Government has taken a number of measures to mitigate the spread of the disease. Following the confirmation of the first confirmed cases, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic introduced a state of emergency in the country from 22 March 2020.

On 16 March 2020 Government requested activation of Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) Council.

In small and medium scale emergencies, DRCU takes the responsibility to coordinate and plan the multisector response. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator the international humanitarian community in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan has established DRCU, which comprises the heads of the UN agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, international organizations and NGOs. UN OCHA National Disaster Response Advisor supports DRCU as Secretariat, DRCU is a consultative-deliberative mechanism whose main purpose is to coordinate humanitarian response to emergencies welcomed and/or upon the Kyrgyz Government relevant request and enhance collaboration among DRCU partners and other key actors.

On May 2020 Government endorsed Response and Recovery Plan and on 20 June Vice Prime Minister Ismailova sign it.