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Reporting Period: May 01 – 06, 2020

# UNICEF in South Asia

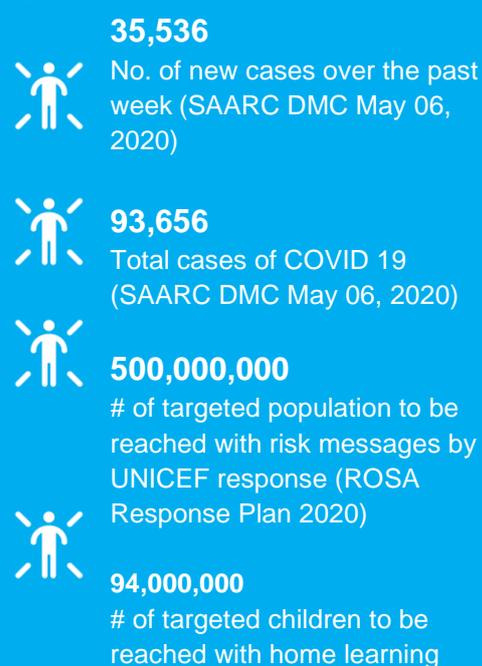
## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 9



### Highlights

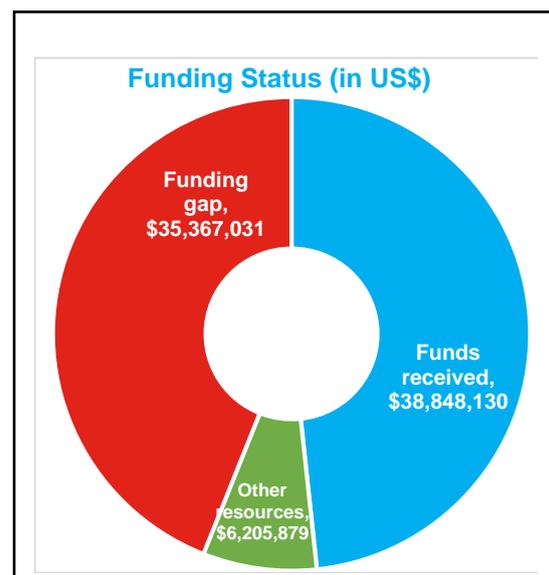
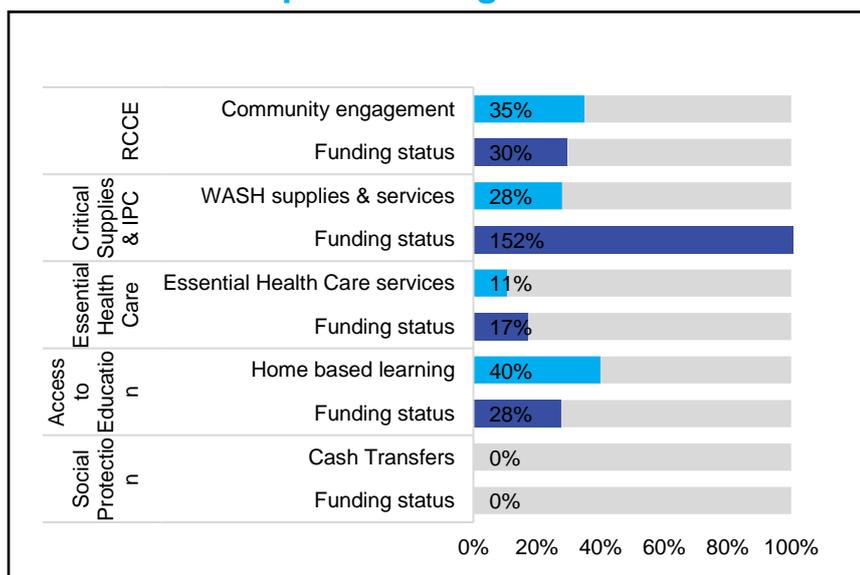
- South Asia region recorded a total of 35,536 new cases during the reporting period bringing the total to 93,656 cases and 2,648 deaths. This represents a 61% increase compared to last week with Maldives continuing to reporting the highest percentage increase (120%). India reported 19,903 new cases, Pakistan added 9,037 new cases, Bangladesh 4,616 cases, and Afghanistan 1,453 new cases.
- While lockdown measures are largely in place across the region, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have started easing some restrictions with Bangladesh allowing thousands of garment factory workers to report for duties. There are concerns that such moves without proper protective and physical distancing measures could lead to spike of cases.
- An estimated 688 million people have been reached across the region with key COVID-19 prevention messages as UNICEF country offices continue to support governments in promoting risk communication and community engagement. Recent assessments conducted in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan show that overall the levels of awareness on COVID-19 is high; 98% in Bangladesh (although 76% among uneducated); 98% in Nepal, 92% in India and 90% in Pakistan.
- In collaboration with governments and partners, UNICEF has reached 37 million children with online and home-based learning. Seven out of the eight countries have developed or are developing national response plans for education continuity or re-opening of schools.
- On 25 March UNICEF joined in the United Nations COVID-19 Appeal, asking for \$80.4 million to respond to the pandemic in the region. A revised HAC appeal will be launched in the coming days reflecting a threefold increase in demand for support in line with the escalating need needs due to the spread of COVID in South Asia.

### Situation in Numbers



**UNICEF Appeal 2020**  
**For South Asia**  
**US\$ 80.4 million**

### UNICEF's Response Budget in South Asia

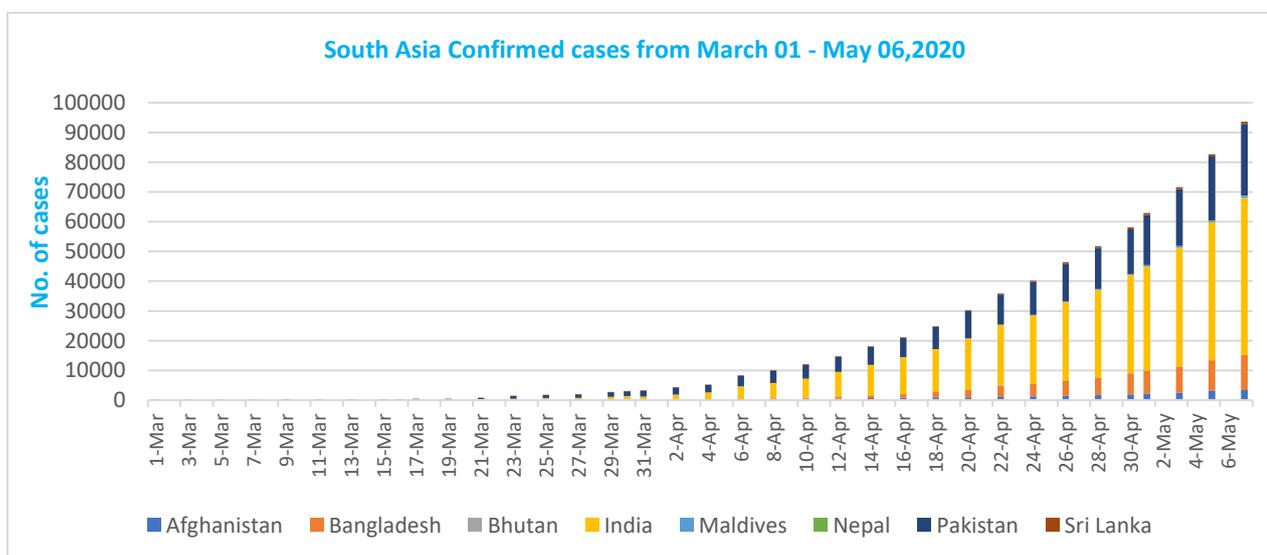


## Funding Overview and Partnerships

As part of a Global COVID Appeal on 25 March, UNICEF South Asia called for US\$ 80.4 million to support government efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through provision of critical supplies and adequate health care and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. This appeal is being revised and will increase substantially in line with the escalating need needs due to the spread of COVID in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received \$38.8 million from the CERF, Asia Development Bank, DFID, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), KfW, Japanese Government, World Bank, UN Solidarity Fund, and Facebook Foundation. In view of the worsening situation, the requests for support have sharply increased and additional funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to scale up intervention for preparedness and response to stop the spread of the virus and support government service delivery system and respond to social impacts of the pandemic.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During the reporting period, South Asia region recorded a total of 35,536 newly confirmed cases bringing the total to 93,656 confirmed cases and 2,648 deaths. This represents a 61% increase of the total number of cases compared to last week. The situation in Maldives remain of great concern as the cases continue to double (617 confirmed cases) mostly among migrant workers living in packed dormitories in the capital Male. Similarly, there is a steady increase of new cases in Afghanistan (75%) and Nepal (74%) compared to last week. India reported 19,903 new cases bringing the total to 52,952 while Pakistan now has 24,073 cases, Bangladesh 11,719 cases, Afghanistan 3,392 cases, Sri Lanka 797 cases, Nepal 99 cases and Bhutan 7 cases as shown in figure 1 below. Despite the ongoing lockdown measures, the cases in the region continue to grow steadily in the region with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Maldives being of major concern. Monitoring reports indicate that continued lockdown measures are having significant impact on access to food particularly amongst the vulnerable groups such as daily labourers. For instance, in Afghanistan the prices of wheat flour, rice, pulses or cooking oil have increased by 15 per cent between 14 March and 4 May at a time when the purchasing power for the migrant labourers has also decreased due to lack of labour opportunities<sup>1</sup>



Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps<sup>2</sup> and SAARC Disaster Management Centre<sup>3</sup>

## Partnership and Coordination

UNICEF regional office and country offices continue to engage and work in close collaboration and coordination with WHO, governments, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centre for Disease Control, INGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies such as Asia Development Bank, World Bank and others. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka, UNICEF is actively engaged in the UNCT coordination mechanism to support the government response. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal where government led cluster or sector mechanism remain active, UNICEF co-leads the WASH sector, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection and is engaging in the inter sectoral working group to develop joint inter-sectoral preparedness and response plan. Through the sector or cluster leadership, UNICEF Country Offices continue to support governments in planning, coordination and/or implementation of the education response to the COVID-19. UNICEF Afghanistan and Nepal have established response plans and are supporting their implementation through the Education Cluster. UNICEF Sri Lanka has

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan; COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response, Operation Situation Report; May 06, 2020

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.covid19-sdmc.org/>

supported the Ministry of Education in developing the Draft Education Cluster Response Plan. UNICEF Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan are working closely with their Ministries of Education to develop education response plans

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The Regional Office and Country offices response plans have been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal. The key priority for the RO/CO response plans is on the immediate measures that must be undertaken to ensure preparedness and response actions to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in each country focusing on the following areas; (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) critical medical and Water Supply and Hygiene (WASH) supplies and services, (3) provision of healthcare and nutrition services, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services, and promoting cash transfers to address the social impact of the epidemic. Recognizing the specific impact on women, adolescents and children, the strategy includes engagement with women leaders and organizations to reach communities, and integration of measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response across sectors.

Building on UNICEF country wide networks, ongoing programs and vast network of partners, UNICEF in South Asia stepped up its engagement in risk communication and community engagement relying on its know-how on hygiene promotion, social and behaviour change communication and experience from previous epidemics, including in this region (SARS, H1N1 etc).

### Afghanistan Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- During the reporting period, UNICEF conducted weekly radio programme on Radio Free Europe, and one television interview. UNICEF issued two press releases, which were widely shared by media. In addition, UNICEF produced at least five videos, several infographics and photos, which were published on UNICEF social media (SM) platforms. As a result of different mass media platforms, an estimated 3,468,647 people were reached while 36,620 people engaged.
- A total 1,282 different community groups have been mobilized on COVID 19 in western region of the country which comprises of 477 religious' leaders, 41 Nutrition mobile team staff (22 female and 29 male), 335 female and 404 male community health workers and 26 community health supervisors.
- 150 Mullahs and religious leaders and 20 social media bloggers were orientated and mobilized to support communities with social distancing and pass key preventative messages in Chaparhar district of Nangarhar.
- 65,000 internally displaced people including children (IDPs) in Western and East region received awareness raising on COVID-19 prevention.

#### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- 17,602 people in IDP settlements and host communities in Herat, Farah and Ghor province have received soap bar to ensure proper handwashing practice.
- 9,574 returnees from Iran transitioning through Islam Qala and Melak border crossing points in Herat and Nimroz province have benefited from the existing handwashing facilities including soap distribution.
- The Herat COVID19 (300 bed) hospital received six water reservoirs (2x1000 liters 3x 5,000 liters 1x 2000liters capacity) for storage of drinking and safe water for handwashing and cleaning.
- Critical medical and WASH supplies including PPE, hand rubs, soap and hygiene kits were provided to the health facilities in the areas controlled by armed groups in Kandahar Province

#### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- 531 children and women of childbearing age benefited from basic health and nutrition services of ANC, PNC, IMNCI, Nutrition screening and EPI through the deployment of mobile health teams
- A guidance note has been produced for zonal offices which includes key messages and actions to maintaining essential nutrition services related to treatment and prevention of undernutrition in the context of COVID-19.
- Preventive messages for infant and young child nutrition are being revised in the context of COVID-19 for counselling cards to reflect adapted measures.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- UNICEF facilitated and participated in the two taskforces established under Education in Emergency (EiE) Working Group: Students Learning Pathways and Teachers' Engagement during Covid-19. The Students Learning Pathways Taskforce developed and disseminated third package for grade 1 to grade 3 CBE students in Dari and Pashtu languages and shared with all EiE partners.
- 4,325 including 3,922 children (girls: 1,648, boys: 2,274) and 403 parents (mothers: 82, fathers: 321) received psychosocial support to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience.
- 57 (girls: 2, boys: 55) without parental care including returnees were reunified with their families. They have also received psychosocial support and temporary shelter.
- 15,155 including 5,856 children (girls: 3,036, boys: 2,820) and 9,299 community members (women 3,872, men: 5,427) received knowledge and skill on COVID-19 including child protection.

## Bangladesh Country Office;

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Messages are now focused on seeking health care services, self-isolation, Ramadan and safe and dignified burials. As a member of the Communicating with Communities Working Group, UNICEF is focusing on vulnerable populations including the elderly and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, with work intensifying around GBV, social stigma and discrimination and mental health. This week, inter-personal messaging reached 35,671 people (17,573 females) while 227,894 people were reached with messaging through 200 mosques in the camps.
- 37.5 million people are being reached via social media, TV and traditional media, including:
  - ✓ Immunization and COVID-19: A [press release](#) (picked up by 12 newspapers), a live Al Jazeera interview on the 07.00 GMT Newshour and [social media posts](#) (over eight million unique Facebook users).
  - ✓ Nutrition: Critical messages on [breastfeeding practices](#) linked to COVID-19 (23 million unique Facebook users).
  - ✓ A [story on](#) frontline health workers in Rohingya refugee camps.
  - ✓ An [article](#) and [post](#) about navigating pregnancy during COVID-19 (over 10 million unique Facebook users).
  - ✓ A [Facebook frame](#) enabling users to give personal thanks to health workers.
  - ✓ The Department of Mass Communication under the Ministry of Information engaged 582 street miking teams to disseminate a second round of miking messages in 64 districts using the script provided by UNICEF.
  - ✓ Radio: 7.5 million people have been reached with COVID-19 messages through 14 community radio stations
- Intensified community engagement is targeting hard-to-reach populations where clusters of cases have been identified such as Moheshkhali Upazilla.
- 87,809 community members were involved in COVID-19 response prevention last week, including 8,893 children and 5,460 mothers and caregivers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC). Handwashing devices were set up in high risk areas such as markets for 3,472 people.

### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- The first batch of PPE procured by UNICEF has arrived in the country including N95 masks (6,720), handheld thermometers (284), coveralls (1,800) and gloves (20,200). This represents five per cent of the overall requirements that UNICEF plans to contribute to the country for the period of six months.
- This week, 220 (129 female) service-providers of various health facilities received online training on IPC. To date, a total of 380 health service providers (of 2,000 targeted) have completed the training.
- UNICEF and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) jointly developed a guideline on “Safe Use and Functional Community Water Points within the COVID-19 Pandemic”. The guideline, meant for tube well mechanics, was approved by DPHE and is being circulated to stakeholders across the country. In the upcoming months, 1.7 million public water points will be regularly disinfected as per this guideline.
- During the reporting period, 521,000 people (302,441 females) were reached with UNICEF-supported interventions including 2,366 handpumps repaired; 101 piped water systems chlorinated; 75,000 bars of soap distributed, and 1,000 handwashing devices constructed in public places by DPHE. UNICEF and DPHE monitor the activities on a weekly basis and collect situation updates from 64 district engineers using virtual meetings.
- 215 UNICEF-supported community health volunteers (78 per cent female) have been trained on COVID-19 contact tracing. The WHO epidemiology team will lead on contact tracing in the Rohingya camps, with support of all Health Sector partners.
- An IPC Training of Trainers was conducted for 30 participants including 3 UNICEF doctors (all male) on: the use of PPE; screening pathways; waste management; and IPC for ITCs and ambulances. The UNICEF doctors will train health workers at all UNICEF health facilities, including the Teknaf ITC.
- To ensure the functionality of latrines in case of a full camp lockdown, UNICEF partners oriented 152 community-based volunteers on non-medical IPC protocols and equipped them with PPE.
- Security forces have restricted the operation of three plastic recycling plants near camps 7, 8W and 15. While the RRRC has guaranteed access to the camps for critical WASH services, these plants are outside the camp area. The respective partner is liaising with UNICEF and WASH Sector to advocate to remove the restriction.
- UNICEF supported the Ramu Upazilla Health Complex Isolation and Treatment Unit with 10 hygiene kits, 10 waste bins, 10 handwashing stations and 11 toilets.

### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- UNICEF developed 12 key messages on immunization. These messages were disseminated in [social media](#) both in Bangla and English focusing on the importance of vaccination, especially during COVID-19 pandemic situation and contribution of health workers.
- The Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, released the National Nutrition Services [scorecard](#) and ranking for 481 Upazillas in 64 districts, with support of UNICEF. The indicators are related to COVID-19 nutrition plan and will assist in tracking the delivery of nutrition services on a monthly basis.
- The Government has agreed to expand the Rapid Pro for real-time monitoring across the country. Early this week, an SMS was sent to 13,000 community health care providers to ask them about their iron folic acid stock. Fifty-

seven per cent responded and 20 per cent noted not having adequate stock for the next three months. This real-time information will help to address supply gaps in a timely manner.

- In Cox Bazaar, immunization sessions continue to be constrained. Only 25 per cent of planned sessions were conducted – all in Kutubdia and Pekua Upazillas – down from 71 per cent the week before.
- Nutrition services in camps are constrained due to accessibility of staff for active case finding. However, case detection and self-referrals by trained mothers has allowed admissions to increase from February (275) to March (209) to April (385).
- An online IPC training organized by the Nutrition Sector and facilitated by WHO was cascaded to 64 nutrition staff (27 female) and 79 volunteers (23 female). Meanwhile, 15,132 caregivers were sensitized on COVID-19 prevention by nutrition facility staff and volunteers.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- An estimated 60 per cent of students now have access to remote learning. The Access to Information (a2i) division, with the support of UNICEF and partners, is exploring ways of making remote learning more attractive. Meanwhile, the government-managed adolescent education portal (<http://konnect.edu.bd/>) supported by UNICEF has enhanced the participation of adolescents. The a2i team is working on providing live classes using the adolescent portal.
- UNICEF has worked closely with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to strengthen the Child Helpline (CHL), including increasing from eight call agents/social workers to 16 working in a 24-hour period. This week the CHL took over 5,000 calls – a 3-fold increase compared to the same time last year. Nearly 60 per cent were related to abuse, exploitation and the need for psychosocial support. Over 60 per cent of the calls are coming from boys, including adolescents.
- During the past week, UNICEF supported government social workers followed up on over 4,000 vulnerable children (50 per cent female). The children and families are offered psychosocial support, guidance on preventing harmful practices and referrals to services like food and cash. Further advocacy is required to ensure social workers can access their offices and visit families, and ensuring they have adequate guidance and PPE to conduct their work.
- The continued closure of schools has escalated risks for children and adolescents, including through online platforms. UNICEF in partnership with Grameen Phone and Telenor Group have developed online safety tips to assist parents to interact constructively with their children and guide them with online safety issues during the lockdown. The tips are focused on staying positive, creating a daily routine for children including adolescents, minimizing online risks and encouraging family time.
- As of 30 April, 104,728 households (55 per cent of families in the camps) with school age children had been reached by 1,244 Rohingya volunteer teachers with messages about caregiver-led home-based learning. So far, 34,045 children (out of 100,000 targeted) are engaged in home-based learning activities.
- Over the past week, psychosocial support was provided 20,788 beneficiaries (10,138 females) in camps and in the host communities (2 per cent with disabilities); positive parenting messages reached 6,429 parents and caregivers (3,152 females) and case management services were provided to 120 children and survivors (91 female).
- 214 partner staff (122 females) completed PSEA training during the week and 44 UNICEF personnel and partner staff (34 females) completed virtual training in GBV risk mitigation and response services including referrals of survivors.

#### Bhutan Country Office;

##### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF Bhutan supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) in developing short TV spots on physical distancing, psychosocial support for children, dos and don'ts during CoVID-19 pandemic including airing on the national TV and cable TV operators' channels.
- UNICEF further supported Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education is incorporating COVID-19 prevention and containment messages in the e-learning programme (hand washing, physical distancing, psychosocial support for children, signs and symptoms, dos and don'ts during CoVID-19 pandemic).
- Bhutanese religious leaders participated in the South Asian Religious Leaders' Meeting (virtually) to update and re-commit religious leader's support in the fight against COVID-19.
- UNICEF is mobilizing civil servants and HOPE volunteers in addition to other volunteers to engage communities and individuals to prepare for and contain COVID-19.
- UNICEF Bhutan is sharing #COVID19STORIES received through COVID19 Diaries campaign <https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/covid-19-diaries>. Since the launch of the campaign more than 80 testimonials have been received from adolescents and young people across the country including from those who are in quarantine.
- A total of 565,531 people were reached over the reporting week with COVID-19 messages using social media

##### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- In partnership with MoH, SNV and local governments additional 5 handwashing facilities were installed during the reporting week bringing the total to 23 permanent handwashing facilities in four municipalities and five districts

(Thimphu Thromdey, Phuentsholing Thromdey, Samtse District, Mongar District, Tashigang District, Samdrup Jongkhar Thromdey, Pema Gatsel district, Gelephu Thromdey and Punakha District). An estimated 20,800 people are benefitting from the installation of handwashing facilities.

- The handwashing communication package (which includes posters highlighting critical times for handwashing with soap, and stickers to nudge people to keep soap and sanitizers at designated places) have been sent to all 20 districts for distribution to 28 hospitals and 259 primary health centers across the country. The package is expected to reach and benefit about 5,000 health workers around the country.

#### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- SOP on continuity of essential health and nutrition services for children, new-born, women and elderly has been developed by MOH. However, currently, there is no service interruption of health and nutrition service. The only challenge could be reduced demand to avail services due to the fear of COVID-19. So far HMIS data shows the health and nutrition service coverage is on track.
- Zoom training conducted for health workers on maternal child health (MCH) handbook and MCH services.
- Face-to-face training conducted for health workers to continue micronutrient powder supplementation

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- Till date, 52 (25 male and 27 female) adults and 138 children (63 boys and 75 girls) have contacted the *Sherig* Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The 138 children were referred to counsellors and provided counselling services.
- The Education Ministry launched Self Instructional Materials (SIM) on the 2nd of May. This is an alternative educational resource targeting the 17000 children who do not have access to internet, television, radio and e-learning facilities. The materials are printed version of the lessons covered through Bhutan Broadcasting Services for classes PP to XII. The learning activities in the SIM packages are developed considering the Education in the Emergency curriculum, class levels and learning potentials of the students.

### India Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF continued to support Government of India in implementation of risk communication and community engagement. While over 600,000 members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), National Service Scheme (NSS) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) have been trained in 13 states, social mobilization through health frontline functionaries and multiple engagement platforms (SHGs, Religious leaders) reached approximately 30 million people in 14 states. UNICEF entered into partnership with Community Radio Association with 151 stations across 12 states to scale up reach and coverage of COVID-19 preventive messages.
- UNICEF successfully advocated with the Government of India (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation) for the issuance of a guidance for 'continuity of work for sanitation activities and hygiene activities during lockdown in rural areas under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Open Defecation Free (ODF)+'. This guidance detailed the precautions that need to be taken by sanitation workers at the field level while carrying out COVID specific and sensitive sanitation activities.
- Orientation and trainings of 53,083 community level WASH service providers (for month of April 2020) were conducted, including swachhagrahis (Foot soldiers in the Clean India Mission), sanitation workers, government sanitation and water department functionaries, WASH master trainers trained under the Sujal and Swachh Gaon programme (Safe Toilet and Clean Village Programme), representatives of NGOs, gram panchayat representatives including sarpanches and teachers on WASH aspects of COVID-19 prevention. RCCE activities were conducted through these platforms, reaching over 300,000 community members in the same period.
- Social media reach 93 million (27 April - 2 May 2020) and 364 million since 3 March 2020. UNICEF India COVID-19 content appeared on social media feeds on average 18.6 million times every day and is seen by more than 13 million on average per day. Co-hosted a [YouTube Live](#) with NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs on addressing anxiety and mental health among children, viewed by nearly 7,000 parents and adolescents in just 12 hours.

#### Critical medical and WASH supplies and Services

- UNICEF successfully advocated with 4 Ministries of Govt of India, for issuance of government orders to continue WASH services through government funding such as Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission and 14th Finance Commission funds, highlighting the need for water management interventions, in view of the upcoming summer months and impending water shortage in large parts of India.
- Multiple states (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Jharkhand) have reached 60,173 people in communities with critical medical and WASH supplies such as masks, PPE, hand sanitizers in partnership with government, NGO and CSR in the month of April.

- UNICEF India is in the process of providing emergency procurement of personal protective equipment, diagnostic tests and oxygen products, to support the government of India in its efforts to ramp up capacity to test and manage COVID-19 cases. At the time of this writing, UNICEF has raised orders for a total amount of \$11 million.

#### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- UNICEF health team participated in the Indian Council of Medical Research's Operational Research Group for COVID19 response. UNICEF teams will be collaborating with the groups working on research on continuity of RCH services; Operational challenges of Health Care Workers and coping mechanism; and Wellness and effect of stigma and discrimination.
- UNICEF and WFP jointly hosted a webinar "*Update on Nutrition and Food Security conditions in India: New findings from Rapid Phone Surveys*" presenting new information on food security/ nutrition and availability of services in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and selected aspirational districts.
- UNICEF and National Centers of Excellence and Advanced Research on Diets hosted a Webinar on Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyle and Support for Elderly
- State level teams continue to advocate for the state level guidance on continuity of services to be issued in various states recommending restart of community-based vaccination; reopening of nutrition rehabilitation centres; replacing school-based iron folate supplementation with community-based initiative and replacing vitamin A supplementation mass campaigns with vaccination linked and door to door distribution.
- UNICEF and partners also continue advocacy with the MoHFW and the national professional associations to align all guidelines and SOPs regarding pregnancy management with the WHO recommendations, especially around rooming-in of the neonate and breastfeeding.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- Since schools are still closed, multiple states have been conducting orientation of teachers and school administration on COVID 19. UNICEF continues to support state governments and partners in continuity of learning of students through various digital and non- digital platforms. Technical support is being provided to 8 states in broadcasting educational content through TV and Radio by mapping and adaptation of resource materials, strategy development, content selection and development of lessons including the use of UNICEF resource materials. The volunteers in 20 districts in Uttar Pradesh have reached out to 7591 families which include 11,426 (5574 girls) children in 907 villages to ensure continuity of learning.
- Till date 323,383 children and caregivers in institutions/ foster care have received information on prevention and response to COVID19, and 1,533 have been provided with alternative care arrangements. In Maharashtra, UNICEF's advocacy with the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights enabled follow up of nearly 10,000 children in institutions. Advocacy and technical support in Uttar Pradesh resulted in 350 children (247 boys and 3 girls) in conflict with law getting interim bail.
- The assessments and interstate linkages of migrant workers is being supported in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra. In Uttar Pradesh, 34,562 migrant workers, including children, in 83 relief camps and quarantine centres, have received information on prevention and precaution on COVID 19.
- 688,887 adolescents and youth have been reached with targeted messages on COVID19. In multiple states, adolescents, young people and youth volunteers have reached and engaged through the platforms of youth clubs, National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on COVID19 prevention and awareness generation activities through online and offline mechanisms.
- 15,697 functionaries have been trained so far on child protection issues in the context of COVID19. In West Bengal, a remote assessment through interviews was conducted of the situation of children living in the streets. The assessment identified that 79% of these children are not with their families.
- So far, 50,136 children and their caregivers have been provided with psychosocial support (PSS) to cope with added stress and anxiety, through online platforms as well as direct PSS at community level through CHILDLINE and NGO partners. In Jammu and Kashmir, 290,700 community members were reached through radio, social media and print media on messages for creating awareness on psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents.
- Advocacy for continuation, universalization, horizontal and vertical expansion of social protection measures is ongoing in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.
- Rapid assessments are being undertaken to assess on the ground situation of social protection programmes in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh.
- UNICEF is a key partner of the government for fiscal analysis in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Kerala, Bihar and Assam.

#### Data Collection and Analysis of collateral impacts of COVID-19

- Rapid assessments are being undertaken to assess on the ground situation of social protection programmes in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh.
- UNICEF is a key partner of the government for fiscal analysis in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Kerala, Bihar and Assam

- State Inter Agency Group (IAG) in West Bengal has trained 1,568 CSOs, volunteers on non-medical COVID 19 response measures.

### Maldives Country Office;

#### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- Immunization and nutrition services remained closed in the past week, in full compliance with the lock-down. With consistent advocacy from UNICEF and other UN agencies, the EPI activities and life-saving nutrition services are available through appointment, to respect the restricted movements during lockdown.
- UNICEF continues to work with the national health authorities to track and monitor pregnant women, especially those women due to deliver in the coming months.
- Led by the national tertiary hospital and technical specialist, guidelines and protocols for providing services for pregnant and lactating women in the COVID-19 context were drafted, and UNICEF will be supporting its dissemination and lead on a virtual orientation of health professionals in facilities around the country.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- A total of 70 teachers completed the training on G-Suit and are awaiting certification. These teachers will be able to provide online learning for approximately 1,000 students. In parallel, UNICEF advocated with the Ministry of Education to resume distant learning programs which had been stopped since the lockdown came into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and hence leaving all 83,512 students without access to learning. The classes are expected to resume soon.
- As more children and parents with younger children are testing positive to COVID-19 or their parents test positive and hence are forced to be relocated to quarantine or isolation facilities, UNICEF is advocating with the authorities to develop specific SOPs for handling minors in these difficult situations and avoid putting children at unnecessary risk of either contracting the virus or become vulnerable to neglect or violence. UNICEF is working with the NEOC in strengthening the procedures and options for positive children and/or their parents and caregivers.

### Nepal Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF Nepal launched U-Report Nepal in Viber as a chatbot in English and Nepali languages providing life-saving information on COVID-19 in an interactive way and engage the young population of the country.
- UNICEF has reached to 18.4 million people through its social media channels with various messages on COVID-19. The most popular posts were on creative ways to enjoy playful moments with children indoors and UNICEF's support to children in a mountainous district through airlifting ready-to-use therapeutic food. UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has also reached estimated 1.5 million people across Nepal with messages on stay home, social distancing, handwashing, online education through dedicated radio and television programmes such as "Corona Capsule" and "Corona Care"
- Ministry of Health incorporated key messages provided by UNICEF on breastfeeding, immunization and responsible reporting during COVID-19 in his daily virtual press briefings. The daily briefing is broadcast through the Nepal Television together with the live stream on the ministry's social media pages. The briefing is also relayed by most of the major media outlets in the country.

#### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- UNICEF Nepal's WASH Infection Prevention and Control efforts have supported 27 districts in five provinces to improve Health Care Facilities (HCF) designated as COVID-19 facilities and communities. UNICEF together with WHO and GiZ, oriented over 100 provincial Health and WASH officials to initiate the joint health and WASH assessment at HCF. The assessment aims to trigger immediate support to HCFs on WASH, IPC, health care waste management and clinical management.
- UNICEF provided over 20 critical WASH commodities including water purification tablets (59,940) and flocculants / disinfectant (144,000), hygiene kits (802), buckets and mugs (543), soaps (1,558), bleaching powder (615kgs), hand sanitisers (1,884) and many types of disinfection and cleaning materials based on a minimum package of priority. These materials have been mainly provided to health care facilities (27), isolation centres (8) and selected communities identified by local government in coordination with provincial health directorate.
- UNICEF as the co-lead of WASH cluster continues to provide technical assistance to the cluster lead agency- Ministry of Water Supply/Department of Water, Sanitation and Sewerage Management. The cluster has identified support agencies in all provinces for coordinating the preparedness and response efforts. It has also agreed to set up technical working groups on risk communication and community engagement, Infection prevention and control, provincial support for preparedness/response and monitoring.

## Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- UNICEF is closely working with Provincial Health Directorates and municipalities to monitor and support the resumption of the essential health services. The routine immunization resumed in most of the health facilities across the country. In province no 2, it restarted in 251 static clinic (51%) and 208 outreach clinics (75%), data from other provinces is being collected. In case of the maternal and new-born services, it was not stopped but the services were not fully functional.
- UNICEF is contributing to sub-cluster efforts to finalize an interim Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Health (RMNCH) guideline for the health workers. The guideline has been translated in Nepali and has been forwarded to Director General, Department of Health Services for endorsement and circulation.
- With the National Health Training Centre, UNICEF is developing a mobile application-based training module on COVID-19 for health workers and female community health volunteers. The training will be rolled out to the paramedics and nursing staff in the primary health care centres (PHCC) and health posts, and the female community health volunteers.
- UNICEF Nepal supported the nutrition cluster for developing an interim Nutrition Information System (NIS) that aims to capture data about nutrition service provision, challenges health care workers are facing in providing these services and information about nutrition commodity supplies within the COVID-19 context. The nutrition cluster will field test the NIS before finalizing and submitting to Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) for approval.
- UNICEF and the cluster members have been supporting 46 local government municipalities for disseminating messages on breastfeeding in COVID-19 context through health workers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV), and Multi Sector Nutrition Programme (MSNP) volunteers.

## Access to continuous education and child protection services

- UNICEF Nepal and cluster partners are supporting and promoting the use of Child Helpline through radios and other social media platforms. A total of 6,240 calls were received through the Child Helpline 1098 in Kathmandu which have doubled since last week. Out of these, most of the cases were related to general information on COVID-19 followed by relief assistance and cases on child abandonment or neglect, children in need of alternative care arrangements, child marriage, trafficking, child labour, abuse in the cyberspace, children in street situations, family conflict and psychosocial problems.
- A total 3,372 persons (2,192 females and 1,179 males) have received psychosocial support through existing helplines, telephone and one to one counselling. Among the total callers, 218 were referred for various services (87 for psychiatric consultations, 31 legal services, 51 for health services, 23 for security, 3 for specialized psychosocial therapy, 2 for relief assistance, 7 to community mediation centre and 14 to both security and one stop crisis management centres). Most calls received were related to information on relief assistance, seeking health related information and people sharing feelings of fear and anxiety.
- UNICEF Nepal has provided orientation on stress management to 412 persons (164 males and 248 females) from different humanitarian organizations and college students. UNICEF Nepal supported social media messages on online safety which reached more than 2 million parents and young people and witnessed more than 1.3 million engagements.
- UNICEF in coordination with cluster members is working with the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) for printing and disseminating the self-learning materials for pre-primary to grade 3 which were developed and uploaded in the CEHRD's website. The CEHRD has circulated letter to the local governments for printing of these materials for distribution to children across the country.
- UNICEF is translating and disseminating the Guidelines on Reopening Schools jointly produced by UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP and the World Bank. UNICEF is member of a task force that will be engaging with the governments at different level for the schools reopening discussion.

## Social Protection/Emergency Cash Transfer

- UNICEF is working with social protection partners on expanding the coverage of the existing social cash transfer scheme with a special focus on ensuring families with children particularly vulnerable to the secondary effects of COVID 19 are being reached.

## Pakistan Country Office;

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- A 4th RCCE brief, informed by combined analysis of the social and behavioural data, daily social medial sentiment data and records from the polio helpline (1166) has been approved and released. The key findings include public concern over the safety of health care staff, the ongoing shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), increased transmission in urban slums, the negative impact on health seeking behaviours such as immunization and ANC. The findings continue to inform the Ministry of Health response, advocacy and to inform decision making for programme related issues as appropriate with the messaging focus over Ramadan continues to be preventive and protective behaviours.

- Through existing polio alliances and health programme, 23,356 (increase of 243) religious leaders have been engaged and mobilized to promote social distancing, encourage praying at home and to promote key preventive messages on COVID-19. Ramadan specific messages on religious rituals are being disseminated through religious leaders and institutions.
- UNICEF's Advocacy and Communication and polio social media platforms have reached 34.9 million people, an increase of 11.9 million people during the reporting period and collectively the Government and UN Agencies have reached 87.9 million people with social media posts.
- As a strategy to reach vulnerable populations, particularly in urban slums, UNICEF has signed a contract with VIAMO, a Mobile Solution services. Through this contract robocall messages recorded by the Minister of Health are being disseminated to 6 million people living in urban slums and rural areas where people have less access to internet connectivity.
- UNICEF and ZONG 4G jointly launched their collaboration on COVID-19 on the 28th April 2020. The partnership will ensure dissemination of accurate and reliable messages/content on COVID-19 developed by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and WHO. ZONG 4G will share the approved
- A total of 2,447 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 Corona myths.
- The Polio helpline (1166) which is being used for COVID-19 has received over 2.4 million calls and responded to a total of 772,484 calls. With the increased capacity of helpline now reaching 250 helpline agents, the helpline is now able to respond to higher number of calls. UNICEF supports the 85 agents and the rest are supported by Digital Pakistan. The average weekly proportion of calls answered has increased from 47.2 per cent last week to 63.5 per cent during the reporting period.

#### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities in 150 out of the 266 assessed HCFs, including 41 during the reporting period (Sindh: 23, KP: 25, Punjab: 102). More than 146,000 people (at least 26,000 new) have used these facilities to date. These facilities will ensure availability of safe drinking water and safe excreta management which will contribute towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among health care workers, currently being reported in the country.
- To ensure that functional hand hygiene facilities are present for all health care workers at all points of care and in areas where PPE is put on or taken off, UNICEF has provided handwashing stations (HWS) in 64 out of 244 health care facilities in need. Additionally, 462 handwashing stations (128 new) have been provided at communal points (Sindh: 62, Punjab: 113, KP: 276, Baluchistan: 11). On average, it is estimated that more than 670,000 people are practicing proper handwashing daily using the HWS, reducing the risk of local transmission of COVID-19.
- Over 2.88 million people (1.3 million new) have been reached with COVID-19 hygiene promotion messages across the four provinces (Sindh: 452,065, KP: 333,669, Punjab: 1,908,437, Baluchistan: 192,030). UNICEF is disseminating hygiene messages through social mobilisers, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), IEC materials displayed on communal HWSs and Clean and Green Pakistan digital and social media platforms.
- UNICEF has rolled out the training of sanitary workers on cleaning and disinfection using the approved training modules. To date 2,694 sanitary and frontline workers (161 new) have been trained with UNICEF support i.e. (Sindh: 549, Punjab: 1,781, Baluchistan: 364).
- UNICEF is also supporting the provision of basic PPEs (Gloves, hand sanitizer and masks) reaching a total of 2,125 frontline health workers with 1,251 reached during the reporting period. In addition, UNICEF supported an assessment of the knowledge and awareness of vaccination staff on adopting protective measures against infectious diseases and COVID-19, which was carried out in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad. The results of this assessment are being compiled.

#### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure the continuation of essential primary health care services in 136 targeted health facilities reaching 702,420 people with an increase of 165,181 this reporting period (Baluchistan: 1,358, Sindh: 162,091, KP: 1,732). Under this, UNICEF has also supported the immunization of 11,286 children (under 1 year old) against measles with 2,471 children (Baluchistan: 404, Punjab: 866 and Sindh: 1201) being vaccinated for the reporting period. World Immunization week was held from 20-26 April 2020 during which printed IEC material as well as videos from Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA) were shared through social media, Radio and TV programmes.
- With UNICEF support, a total of 3,170 frontline health workers have been trained on infection prevention and control (IPC) with 705 reached during this reporting period and a total of 11,215 frontline health workers and community volunteers oriented on COVID-19 and referral of suspected cases an increase of 5,477 during the reporting period.
- In KP, UNICEF has started telemedicine services through the Public Health Association of KP to focus on the MNCH needs of mothers and children. So far, a total of 341 women and children benefited from this service, which included 161 children under 5 years suffering from diarrhoea, 70 children suffering from acute respiratory infections and 110 pregnant women received advice on Ante Natal Care.
- At national level, UNICEF continues to work with RCCE Task Force to develop nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19. UNICEF developed a communication plan to disseminate these products using social media, electronic

media, print media at community and health facility levels, reaching 223,645 caregivers in KP and over one million caregivers in Punjab.

- A total of 2,752 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment sites were operational countrywide. However, service uptake continues to be compromised by movement restrictions. A total of 13,750 SAM children have been admitted for treatment, of which 1,247 were reached during the reporting period (KP 564; Baluchistan: 435 and Sindh: 248) and counselling on IYCF practices reached 8,835 pregnant and lactating women during the reporting period (KP: 5,592, Baluchistan: 2,156 and Sindh: 1,087) and 49,725 in total.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- A total of 608,784 School Management Committee/Parent Teachers Committee (SMC/PTCs) members, teachers and education personnel were directly reached with COVID-19 prevention messages via SMS and other social media platforms during the reporting period, taking the total figure to 1.25 million.
- Targeted messages on the importance of education, including short video messages on mathematics, science and English, have reached a total of 11,909 parents and PTSMCs (Parent Teacher School Management Committees) members, including 1,234 during this reporting period.
- The provision of alternative learning opportunities to the most marginalized children remains greatest challenge across the provinces, especially for people with limited access to TV and other online resources. With UNICEF's support, a total of 22,568 children are benefitting from alternative learning platforms (Sindh ALPs and Balochistan "My Home My School"), with 4,566 children reached during this reporting period through Balochistan Education Department's campaign "My Home My School" which is running successfully, with support from UNICEF, in 11 focused districts where children are continuing their learning in the safe environments of their homes.
- A total of 432 teachers have been trained on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools, with 118 teachers trained on during this reporting period.
- A total of 800 social workforce professionals (351 women and 449 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 222 trained this week (Punjab: 50, KP: 125, Sindh: 47).
- A total of 3,942 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (272 girls, 252 boys, 1,644 women, 1,774 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP and Sindh provinces with 1,538 reached within the reporting period, including 110 individuals (72 men, 21 women, 13 boys and 4 girls) who received specialized PSS services in KP and Sindh provinces.
- Over this reporting period, stigma prevention messages were disseminated through Government and UNICEF platforms, for the first time, generating an unprecedented interest. At national level, stigma prevention posts on UNICEF social media (Facebook and twitter) reached 2,063,024 people with over 58,000 engagements.

#### Sri Lanka Country Office;

##### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The 20-minute video featuring the Prime Minister engaging children provided an opportunity for children and adolescents to voice their questions (via video message) about the COVID-19 pandemic to the senior leadership in the country and have these questions answered. The video was broadcast on 8 national TV channels, Prime Time, FOC, on 2 May. Further, UNICEF hosted a watch party on UNICEF's FB page. The live watch party reached 5,427 people during the session. As at 4 May, the video gained a unique reach of over 3.3 million (with viral and organic reach of over 2.1 million) and the content was viewed over 5 million times.
- Phase II of COVID-19 Risk Comms Campaign on symptoms and caregiving, and stigma has gained a unique reach of over 3.3 million. All content was viewed over 15.7 million times with over 678,076 engagements

##### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- Work on improving isolation facilities including WASH and IPC facilities in 3 important centres based on the current epidemiology of COVID 19 in Sri Lanka is progressing i.e. Lady Ridgeway Hospital (Children's Hospital), Castle Street Hospital (Maternity Hospital) and the Base Hospital Minuwangoda.
- With the increase in number of cases detected, MoH has decided to upgrade more facilities as treatment and isolation hospitals. District Hospital Kandana, District Hospital Wethara, Base Hospital Thedeniya, BH Warakapola, DH Rakwana has been added to the list of treatment/isolation hospitals
- Supported Ministry of Education to strengthen the Covid-19 responding guidance note based on the circular (April 27,2020) issued by the MoH on guidance for preparedness and response for COVID-19 in school settings. Covid-19 responding guidance of MoE was reviewed and translated into Tamil language. The design of the Sinhala version was completed and shared with the Ministry of Education. Three separate annexures on Mask use and production at home, handwashing designs for schools and disinfectant protocol were developed, translated and shared with the Ministry of Education.

##### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- To support the Ministry of Education in its efforts towards the provision of continuous learning programme through television programmes, UNICEF provided another consignment of 2,000 face mask for the academics, teachers and other staff who are involved in the development and delivery of the content.

- To ensure continuous learning for primary students, UNICEF supported the National Institute of Education in the development of print-based learning material for grade 1, which is currently under printing. The material for grade 2 is being finalized. UNICEF has been successful in mobilizing financial resources from other development partners to support the printing of learning material for grade 2 students. At the request of the Ministry of Education, this support will cover grade 1 and 2 students in all schools in the country.
- SLCO reached 201 children in need of care and protection through digital case conferencing and 32 children were supported on proper alternative care arrangements.
- To-date around 1,200 children, parents and caregivers have been reached through the psychosocial first aid support through the established virtual mechanism to ensure continuation of such services.

#### Data Collection and Analysis

- Nationally representative telephone survey was initiated (May 1), with 2,000 respondents, to gauge the impact of the COVID crisis on households. The next round of calls will take place in approximately two weeks. Results will help shape UNICEF's advocacy and feed the policy responses by government of Sri Lanka.

*Funding Status (NB: these funding needs will be adjusted after the new HAC launch. A revised appeal with updated requirements will be launched on 8 May 2020 increasing threefold the request for support)*

Sector	Requirements (\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received (\$)	Other Resources (\$)	\$	%
Afghanistan	12,240,000	2,270,000	0	9,970,000	81
Bangladesh	15,355,790	5,763,619	5,240,879	4,351,292	28
Bhutan	1,800,000	550,000	35,000	1,215,000	68
India	8,797,750	19,568,996	0	-10,771,246	-122
Maldives	3,330,000	800,000	0	2,530,000	76
Nepal	6,075,000	2,643,563	500,000	2,931,437	48
Pakistan	27,622,500	4,296,414	400,000	22,926,086	83
Sri Lanka	3,000,000	1,347,900	30,000	1,622,100	54
Regional Office	2,200,000	1,605,638	0	594,362	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,421,040</b>	<b>38,846,130</b>	<b>6,205,879</b>	<b>35,369,031</b>	<b>44</b>

#### Next SitRep: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

UNICEF continues to monitor the situation very closely and situation reports will be issued on regular basis as the developments unfold.

#### Internal and External Media

'View from my window" Afghanistan adolescents and young people

<https://www.facebook.com/afghanistanunicef/videos/167007964613845/>

No child left behind; <https://www.facebook.com/unicef/videos/3632065640154374/>

Hinna Wardak – UNICEF ACO Youth Goodwill Ambassador

<https://www.facebook.com/afghanistanunicef/videos/2513551532307749/>

Press releases: New guidelines provide roadmap for safe reopening of schools

<https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/press-releases/new-guidelines-provide-roadmap-safe-reopening-schools>

Press statement on UNICEF – Zong partnership: <https://bit.ly/2SI5LKN>

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