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Reporting Period: 22 July – 14 August 2020

East Asia and Pacific Region Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 11

for every child

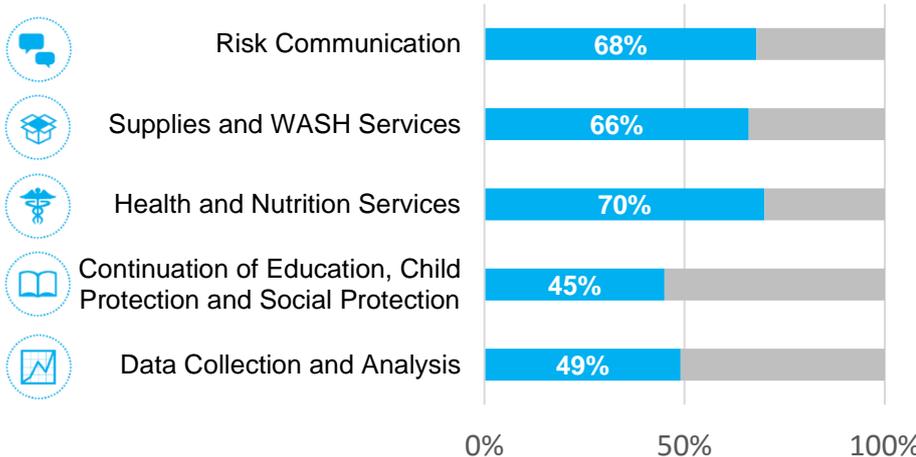
Highlights

- As of 14 August 2020, 524,105 positive COVID-19 cases were confirmed in East Asia and Pacific, with 15,001 deaths. After months of steady decline, many countries have seen increases in cases over the past month. Philippines (143,749) and Indonesia (130,718) continue to record the highest number of cases.
- UNICEF is supporting governments with the “Back to School Campaign”. By the end of July 2020, most countries in the region started reopening schools, with the exception of Cambodia, Mongolia and the Philippines. Schools in DPRK, some Pacific Island Countries and within some parts of China (i.e. Beijing) also remain closed for summer break.
- UNICEF is supporting governments with their infection prevention and control (IPC) measures as well as communicating lifesaving information on COVID-19. To date, UNICEF and partners reached 793 million people with COVID-19 messages in the region.
- In order to continue responding to critical needs in countries most affected by COVID-19, UNICEF has revised its Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the COVID-19 response and is now seeking US\$1.9 billion globally. As part of this appeal, the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan appeal increased to US\$162 million. So far, a total of US\$99 million has been received for the response in 2020*.

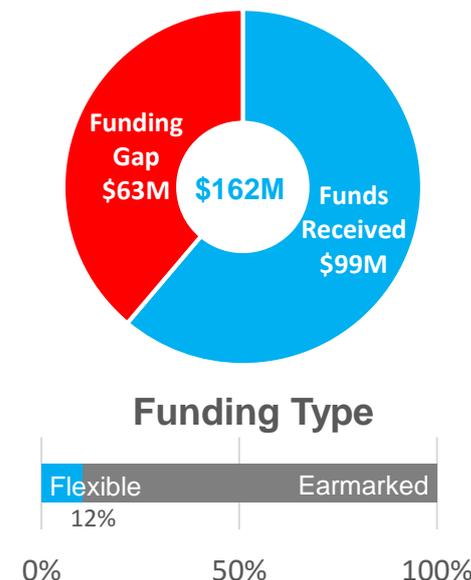
East Asia and Pacific Situation in Numbers

- 524,105**
Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 15,001**
COVID-2019 deaths
- 325 million**
Children affected by COVID-19-related school closures
- US\$162 million**
Updated funding requirement for the regional response

UNICEF’s Funding Status



Regional Funding Status 2020 (US\$)



* UNICEF also received some multi-year contributions which go beyond the duration of the HAC. The total amount received including multi-year grants is US\$ 116.2 million

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

While most countries in East Asia and the Pacific have continued to transition out of the initial COVID-19 emergency response phase, the Philippines (143,749 cases) and Indonesia (130,718 cases) are experiencing an escalation of cases. The resurgence of cases in China, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam have emphasized how fragile the progress in containing the pandemic can be. New outbreaks of community transmission in these countries have led the respective governments to resume public health measures in affected areas to prevent transmission, including case investigation, contact tracing, quarantine of close contacts, mass screening, social distancing, compulsory use of mask in public places and even school closures. Restrictions on border crossings and flight operations remain in effect across the region. To date, 524,105 positive COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in East Asia and Pacific, with 15,001 deaths.

Preliminary data from some countries in the region suggests that, as elsewhere, low income families appear to be especially affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Not only are they more likely to become unemployed or face cuts to their working hours, but they are also more likely to face challenges in accessing certain social services, including health care and home-based learning. Reduced health-seeking behaviours and access to essential healthcare were also observed at hospital and community health centre levels. Patterns of regional migration could become more complex and unpredictable in the near future, yet the lack of household registration could continue to leave many migrant families and children without access to essential services during this critical time. Female headed households have been shown to be exceptionally vulnerable, with higher rates of unemployment and lower rates of access to social protection.

The economic, food and health system disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to continue to exacerbate the deterioration of dietary quality within low income families, which can further aggravate the region's worsening child nutrition outcomes. A [report](#) from the International Food Policy Research Institute predicts that in Myanmar and in other countries in the region, declining incomes due to the COVID-19 crisis, as well as disruptions to food systems, could lead to a significant reduction in dietary diversity. Health surveillance data suggest that the COVID-19 lockdown from April 2020 onwards resulted in significant disruptions to government maternal and child health services in our region. Currently, only Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Pacific Islands countries have fully re-established provision of nutrition services, while the majority of countries access to services is still limited. Furthermore, there is evidence of changes to essential practices, for example, not breastfeeding because of fear of COVID-19 transmission or the separation of new-borns from their mothers. Collectively, these ramifications of COVID-19 can increase the risk of wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia.

Meanwhile, the economic impacts on families continue to adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people, including an increased risk of school dropout, violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), exploitation, abuse and neglect. Some countries in the region have noticed increased cases of violence in the last three months. New [evidence](#) from Myanmar indicates the prevalence of gender based violence (GBV) increased by 32% in the first quarter of 2020, with the majority of perpetrators being the victim's partner. During the last two months in Thailand, the Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce has rescued over 100 children suffering online exploitation and abuse, nearly twice as many as were rescued in 2018.

The scale of the educational disruption has been unparalleled. By the end of March 2020, all countries in the region closed their schools, affecting the education of over 325 million children. By the end of July 2020, most countries have started reopening their schools, with the exception of Cambodia (expected reopening on 1 November 2020), Mongolia (expected reopening on 1 September 2020) and the Philippines (reopening date TBC). Schools in DPRK, some Pacific Island Countries and within some parts of China (i.e. Beijing) also remain closed for summer break. Nonetheless, several countries have opened schools have only partially reopened them for safety considerations and due to variations in the incidence rate of cases across geographic areas. Indonesia for example opened schools in districts identified as low risk only. Temporary and/or local school re-closures due to local COVID-19 outbreaks were reported in China, Viet Nam, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. Students in countries, which have not yet re-opened continue to rely on distance learning including online classes, TV and radio emissions and take-home lessons to continue their education. Access to distance learning, especially online classes, remains challenging for many children, especially the most marginalized, across the region due to lack of devices, connectivity and language of instruction.

In order to respond to the complex primary and secondary impacts of the pandemic, many governments in the region are supporting their populations through social protection systems. UNICEF's advocacy efforts and technical support for the expansion of these government led social protection systems has supported over 17 million households across the region with cash assistance. In the Philippines, UNICEF is supporting the government in advocating for the lift of the three-child limit for benefit entitlement and to make this social protection scheme inclusive for all children in currently enrolled households. In Malaysia, and in part as a result of UNICEF advocacy efforts, the government is considering implementing additional cash transfers for children, older people and people with disabilities. This represents a massive step forward towards recognition of the need for increased transfers and consolidation around the life-cycle approach in Malaysia, not only during COVID-19 but also afterwards.

Continued efforts are needed in order to ensure that the number of new cases do not flare up again and to support health systems, communities and families to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. In order to support governments in meeting these challenges, UNICEF is working with governments and partners across the region.

Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Response Strategy focuses both on addressing immediate needs, including enhancing preventive and preparedness measures to contain, mitigate and respond to the health and socio-economic impacts as well as on medium to longer term interventions through sectoral responses. The response strategy's first strategic priority is the public health response to reduce novel coronavirus transmission and mortality. This includes ensuring that children, their caregivers and the general population receive targeted and accurate lifesaving information on COVID-19 and how they can protect themselves; improving IPC and providing critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) supplies; and ensuring access to adequate WASH services. The second strategic priority focuses on addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, including supporting the continuity of health, nutrition, education, social protection and child protection including gender-based violence services.

In addition, East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is enhancing knowledge management within the region and contributing lessons learned globally. While documentation of good practices is ongoing, sectoral and issue based learning sessions are being organized together with country offices and external partners to exchange lessons, highlight issues and explore innovative ways of working in the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Partnerships and Coordination

At the regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to reduce transmission and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 with national authorities, UN and partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control (CDC), NGO partners, Community-Based Organisations, and the private sector. Furthermore, to assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and women, UNICEF is coordinating with multiple agencies at the regional and national level. With the support of UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Country Offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19. UNICEF is actively contributing to the joint UN socio-economic assessment for COVID-19 as part of the joint UN Task Force.

Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF's risk communication and community engagement focuses on how to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly how to protect children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. Particular attention is given to reach urban populations, including slum dwellers, and other vulnerable populations such as migrants, people living in remote areas and the poor, where the risk of transmission is particularly high. In the region, **UNICEF continues providing public information** through social media and traditional media to **over 793 million people** since the beginning of the crisis. Targeted audio-visual messages have also been produced and disseminated to reach children and people with disabilities.

- In **Cambodia**, a handwashing campaign with the Ministry of Rural Development is underway, adapting existing handwashing materials to include COVID-19. A total of 38,000 posters, 100,000 story books, and 100,000 reminder stickers have reached the Provincial Department of Rural Developments in the six target provinces. Mobile loudspeakers have also disseminated handwashing messages in 3,603 villages, reaching 602,771 households.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF influencers (MC Minh Trang, Actress Bao Thanh and Food Blogger Phan Anh) have posted and shared UNICEF RCCE Facebook posts on their fan-pages and have received a lot of positive feedback.
- In **Myanmar**, through partnership with a local CBO, 40 volunteers were trained and over 45,000 people in 193 villages in 6 remote townships in Northern Kachin State were reached with RCCE messages.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF reached additional 253,541 people on COVID-19 messages in the National Capital Region via local public address systems, posters, face-to-face sessions (supplies distribution), and social media. Meanwhile, UNICEF also trained an additional 775 health workers and other COVID-19 frontline workers through a RCCE webinar, bringing the total number of participants to 1,973.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues its support to the [national website](#) which has received 22.6 million visitors and 71.6 million page views.

Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services

UNICEF supports frontline health workers and service providers to have capacity to manage IPC and to have access to IPC equipment in critical facilities. It also looks at children and their families having access to safe and affordable water and WASH, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. While **UNICEF provided personal protective equipment (PPE) for an additional 27,690 health workers** during the reporting period across the region, **reaching 295,820 health workers** since the beginning of the crisis, **an additional 661,868 people were reached with WASH supplies and services for a total of over 5.8 million people** being reached since January. As in many countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, PPE and other health supplies cannot or can no longer be sourced locally and UNICEF's support is critical to fill supply gaps.

PPE and Health Supplies

- In **Lao PDR**, with UNICEF support, Ministry of Health received PPE supplies, including 80,000 N95 facemasks for health workers and 300 boxes with gloves. Furthermore, 39,400 doses of Flu vaccine and 230,000 doses of Japanese Encephalitis vaccine are under distribution to health facilities throughout the country to supplement routine immunization.
- In **DKR**, at the end July, following official communication from government of the temporary closure of the sailing services between Dalian and Nampo ports, UNICEF met with Ministry of Public Health for further clarification on how this measure would impact the supply chain. To this end, the country office is prioritizing COVID-19 supplies, vaccines and essential medicines to be processed for customs clearance and transshipment.
- In **Myanmar**, a total of 347 (310 female and 37 male) health facility staff and volunteers were provided with PPE supplies in Kachin and Shan States. They also received training on how to use PPE effectively and on the detection of COVID-19 cases, referral and management of positive cases.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF procured PPE which was distributed by the Department of Health to 20,120 health facility workers and 6,380 community workers.
- In **Thailand**, as part of continuing collaboration with the Thai Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Migrant Working Group, UNICEF's CSO partners will commence distribution of 5,300 relief kits to the most vulnerable migrant children and their families this week.

WASH Supplies and Services

- In **Papua New Guinea**, WASH interventions to promote handwashing and good hygiene practices in 44 National Capital District schools continue to benefit students. More than 66,000 students (35,027 boys and 31,769 girls) in these 44 schools now have access to hygiene promotion programs supported by the Government of Japan. Key hygiene promotion messages on banners and posters have been distributed to 20 schools and 13 schools have received dignity kits.
- In **Indonesia**, the distribution of WASH supplies is ongoing at health facilities, schools, public places and households in six provinces, reaching a total of 1,777,861 beneficiaries to date. Disinfection protocols and services have been implemented in 1,202 healthcare facilities, 196 schools and 2,300 public places. Handwashing with soap stations have been installed in 408 HCFs, 59 schools and 193 public places. Through the Indonesian Red Cross Society, Unilever soap bars were distributed to 132,700 households.
- In **Malaysia**, as of August 7, 19,818 people (children and their families) from undocumented communities in Sabah, detainees in Immigration Detention Centre, and refugee schools in Klang valley, and low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur have received essential hygiene kits and health education sessions.
- In **Timor-Leste**, 1,702 portable handwashing buckets were provided to improve handwashing in classrooms in support of school reopening during the reporting period. In total, an additional 99,900 people were reached with critical WASH supplies and services during the reporting, including 96,780 under the age of 18 (49,375 boys and 47,405 girls) and 3,120 are over 18 (1,591 males and 1,529 females).

Supplies and Logistics Challenges

Where PPE supplies are available on local markets, quality certification according to international standards is sometimes challenging. Regional export restrictions of PPE and WASH supplies as well as border closures and regular flight operation have made it significantly more difficult to source such supplies regionally and ensure their transportation into affected countries. Furthermore, due to the closure of regular flight operations and border closure the options of using chartered flight has heavily increased the operation cost.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF, in close coordination with partners and health authorities, is supporting countries' health systems in the region to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks. UNICEF has strengthened health system capacities by supporting the **training of an additional 83,323 health workers** during the reporting period, **having so far reached over 530,095 health workers** in total on the detection, management and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases while at the same time supporting the continued provision of adequate health care, including nutritional services, for children, pregnant women and vulnerable communities. So far, **over 20 million people have been reached with nutrition messages and over 3.7 million children have been provided with access to essential nutrition services. The focus in the region is now on re-establishing the delivery routine nutrition services.**

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF is supporting routine nutrition services at health facility level. During the second quarter of 2020 following the onset of COVID-19 a total of 1,379 children have been treated for severe acute malnutrition; 1,115,495 children 6-59 months have received vitamin A supplementation; 952,683 children 12-59 months have benefitted from deworming, and 86,315 pregnant women have received iron-folic acid tablets.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to provide lead technical support to the government in developing and disseminating the 'new normal' national guideline to support re-opening of essential nutrition services during the pandemic and relevant supporting materials. Effective technical and advocacy support, along with intensive capacity building initiatives have contributed to providing more than 1.9 million children with access to essential nutrition services during the pandemic. Various nutrition behaviour change materials and tools have been disseminated through online and offline platforms, having reached 7,762,104 people. UNICEF has also supported the Ministry of Health in designing and conducting key assessments of essential nutrition services and Infant and Young Child

Feeding. In addition, working through the Ministry of Health, UNICEF has designed a platform for tracking COVID-19 related capacity gaps across all public and private hospitals in the country. Technical protocols for this platform have been disseminated to 834 hospitals across all 34 provinces. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health on 'new normal' guidance for health care facilities, for which field testing and piloting is completed. UNICEF also provided support to updating the dashboard that visualizes COVID-19 related data for all private and public sector hospitals across the country to reflect the adoption of new case definitions, as well as improved analyses of paediatric COVID-19 cases.

- In **DPRK**, provision of both preventative and curative healthcare and nutrition services continue to be delivered to targeted populations without interruption. IPC for health facilities is in place which includes a mandatory policy for all health workers to wear masks, practice triage and crowd management using service appointment, physical distancing and handwashing stations placed at all entry points.
- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF partners have reached total 12,565 children (6-59 months) (6,044 boys and 6,521 girls) and 12,278 pregnant and lactating women with preventive nutrition services during COVID-19 period since April. In addition, 620 children (6-59 months 259 boys and 361 girls) with severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment and management in Rakhine during the response period.

Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and Social Protection Services

As countries continue gradual school reopening, UNICEF is supporting preparation of schools and students to return through online surveys and communication campaigns (Lao PDR), development of school operations guidance (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea) and technical support to Ministries of Education on revising school schedules and curriculum loads (Viet Nam). Country Offices are also including protection and nutrition considerations in the back to school campaigns (Indonesia, Viet Nam), including WASH supplies and campaigns (China, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea). In several countries that are opting to delay school reopening (Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia) UNICEF is supporting continuity of learning efforts as well as aiding governments' decision making through awareness raising on the benefits of school returns for children's learning, wellbeing and protection.

While several significant regional child protection issues have emerged and protection services has been disrupted over the past few months, UNICEF continues to work with governments and partners to ensure continuity of critical child protection services including case management. Furthermore, UNICEF is working with partners to ensure that children at risk of family separation and children and women at increased risk of violence, sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, due to COVID-19, are protected through social and protection services in humanitarian and development contexts. Increasing, attention is also given to the heightened risk children and women face of experiencing violence in the home during the COVID-19 epidemic. To re-enforce the rights of children and women, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) supported the Association of South East Nation (ASEAN) to issue a statement on mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD). The statement highlights not only the need to reach vulnerable groups of children, but also the role of social protection and social workers. This is particularly timely given the new World Bank report projecting regional growth to slow sharply in 2020, to 0.5 per cent, the lowest rate since 1967.

By supporting social protection responses by governments in the region, UNICEF helps to ensure that vulnerable children and their families impacted by COVID-19 have financial access to goods and services essential to meet their basic needs. To date, UNICEF's support to social protection services has resulted in **17.4 million households** having been reached with cash assistance.

Education

- In **Papua New Guinea**, following a spike in number of COVID-19 cases, schools in the National Capital District have been suspended since Wednesday, 29 July as part of the emergency measures announce by the Government on 28 July. Around the country 32,841 students from 188 secondary schools including private schools and six national high schools have been nominated to sit for examinations. As schools are expected to reopen on Monday, 17 August, students are due for their Written Expression examinations. UNICEF has supported the National Department of Education in the procurement of 30,000 face masks and 450 infra-thermometers to support the upcoming examination, benefitting 4,300 students and 400 teachers/examination supervisors during the next week. Additionally, 1,500 copies of "Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools" has also been delivered to the National Department of Education for distribution to schools.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF continued its support to the Ministry of Education, promoting and advocating for the safe reopening and functioning of schools, and reached nearly 20,000 early childhood development centres and 39,000 schools nationwide. Support included the adaptation and dissemination of global guidance to the Thai context, including the recent guidance on "Ensuring an inclusive return to school for children with disabilities" which also targets special schools.
- In **Lao PDR**, UNICEF and partners provided all public primary schools in the country with printed risk communication materials on COVID-19, reaching more than 700,000 children (51% girls). This includes materials which integrate messages around parenting, mental health and psychosocial support in order to ensure that all children return to school. In addition, 740 schools were provided thermometers to support implementation of safe school operations as per global and national guidelines. Laos' Back to School Campaign was globally recognized by UNICEF as "inspirational" and "compelling" for its evidence-based and participatory design and nation-wide reach. A UNICEF case study, [Safely Back to School](#), was published to showcase how Lao PDR has ensured the continuity of learning and safely reopening schools during COVID-19.

- In **Malaysia**, a total of 2,642 teachers from 1,650 schools (which account for over 16% of the total number of schools in Malaysia) have used the massive open online courses/teachers' digital learning community via Ministry of Education Google Classroom platform for their professional development and to maintain continuity of student learning on the [MOE GC Platform](#).
- In **Viet Nam**, a total of 43,966 schools continue to implement safe-back-to-school protocols with equity-focused criteria for preparations of the new school year as well as for ensuring the preventive measures in place during the National Upper Secondary Graduation Exams. UNICEF, with financial resources from the Government of Japan and other donors, has supported distance learning opportunities and parental guidance for 5.3 million preschool children, including through TV channels.
- In **Myanmar**, with UNICEF support and the Ministry of Health and Sports' technical guidance, Ministry of Education's Department of Basic Education (DBE) developed the Guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control in schools. The guidelines are based on the Global Guidelines developed by UNICEF, WHO and IFRC. DBE is distributing over 92,000 copies of the Guidelines to 420 offices and 58,728 schools including government schools, monastic schools, ethnic based education schools, non-formal education centres, temporary learning classrooms and private schools including sharing these guidelines on Ministry of Education's e-platform and relevant social media. With UNICEF support, DBE has developed RCCE materials and will distribute 568,000 copies to 48,903 schools as well as DBE's Facebook page and website.
- In **China**, the provision of play and learning materials to 29 public and private kindergartens (204 classrooms) in Wuhan City (with a high percentage of children from poor families) has been completed in time for the planned re-opening of the kindergartens on 1 September. Once the kindergartens re-open, these materials will benefit an estimated 5,939 children aged 3–6 (3,219 boys and 2,810 girls).

Child Protection

- In **Samoa**, UNICEF supported awareness raising sessions with 563 village representatives (264 women and 298 men) on risks of COVID-19 and related protection issues during community outreach.
- In **Kiribati**, UNICEF supported the National Day Campaign over four days in which 3,810 parents, youth and children (1,000 women, 750 men, 1,200 girls and 860 boys) learnt how to cope with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as how to prevent and mitigate risks of family violence or neglect during the pandemic.
- In **Lao PDR**, strengthening the capacity of the social service workforce remains UNICEF Lao PDR's key intervention. With the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, UNICEF Lao PDR is developing a recorded video training series on psychological first aid and gender-based violence risk mitigation targeting frontline workers. Continuous technical and financial supports are provided to the Lao Women's Union (LWU) and the Lao Youth Union (LYU) to analyse data received through Government hotline systems, build capacity of counsellors and finalize the National Guideline for the Protection, Assistance and Referral for Victims of Trafficking (to be launched in mid-August). In July alone, 324 people reached out for psychosocial counselling via the LYU hotline (35% were children). The main reasons for seeking help include issues related to COVID-19, studying, relationship and family issues (including issues related to secondary impacts of COVID-19) and violence in the family.
- In **Indonesia**, over the last four weeks, mental health and psychosocial support reached an estimated additional 392,414 individuals through messages related to awareness and tips on mental health broadcast through both traditional and social media channels, webinars and other activities organized by UNICEF in partnership with government and NGO partners. A total of 1,090,695 (364,438 children; 726,257 adults/young people/caregivers) were reached with messages on mental health and psychosocial through a range of platforms.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to organize a 4-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on child protection to provide knowledge and practical skills regarding responding the cases of child abuse in schools for 22 participants from selected universities, MOET and UN agencies. Following the TOT, UNICEF and MOET will support participants to deliver the training for school managers and teachers throughout the country.

Social Protection

- In **Cambodia**, the national cash transfer programme for poor and vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 launched on 25 June and has now covered two rounds of payments – preparation are underway for the third round. As of 9 August, 578,241 households benefited from the programme, out of an increased target of 613,000 households.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF is providing ongoing support to government in developing guidelines for increasing coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers of a poverty-focused child grant program during COVID-19. UNICEF also provided support on the design of a modified mechanism of for a locally controlled 'village fund' that has so far benefitted 6.5 million poor families not currently accessing national social protection programmes. Furthermore, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Finance and National Bureau of Statistics with INDOMOD projections to simulate the impact of government spending on social protection through COVID-19 safety net programmes and to identify priority programs for children for secured financing in the 2021 Annual Budget.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF is supporting the Government in the monitoring of the Child Money Programme, which was vertically expanded until the end of the year with an increase from a pre-COVID 20,000 tugrug benefit per month to 100,000 tugrug per month, reaching 1.2 million children.
- In **Myanmar**, the government has initiated a vertical expansion of the existing government-led Maternal and Child Cash Transfer, whereby an additional one-off/top up of 30,000 MMK (~\$20) was provided to all beneficiaries (240,000 pregnant and lactating women or women with young children) in July 2020 with the objective of boosting the purchasing power of families to buy nutritious foods. Around 60% of the beneficiaries have collected cash

transfer. This “top up” is in addition to the 45,000 MMK (~\$30) received quarterly. UNICEF provided technical support in adaptation of the implementation procedures including social and behavioural change communication on key health and nutrition behaviours.

- In **Timor-Leste**, the first near-universal cash transfer was completed in 12 out of 13 municipalities in which 280,000 out of 298,000 targeted households received a payout.

Cross-cutting areas: Adolescent and Youth engagement, Disability, Gender

- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF is supporting the roll-out a mobile-based health micro-insurance to Myanmar, as the first pilot country worldwide. UNICEF presented the initiative to local governmental stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health and Sports; and agreed to proceed with a pilot to protect 10,000 children and pregnant women, from vulnerable households of Yangon's informal settlements.
- In the **Philippines**, the lack of access to online education is driving teens to sell sexual images for money to enrol in school and buy digital devices for online classes. The buying and selling of online child sexual images on Twitter has increased during lockdown. UNICEF has captured and reported to Twitter and the Philippine National Police 39 different hashtags and key words that buyers and teen sellers use for their online transactions. Similarly, there has been a 260% increase in reports of online child sexual abuse images since the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown in March. To increase awareness for child online safety among teens, UNICEF created an account on TikTok and launched a video streaming event last 4 July entitled #StaySaferKids. The event reached 63,758 unique viewers who shared it 745 times and left 8,580 comments. The @unicefph TikTok account gained 3,652 new followers.

Data Collection, Analysis and Research

UNICEF generates data analyses and evidence on consequences and impacts of the pandemic to social services to advocate and inform social protection services and the wider response to the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF in are working with partners on the secondary impact assessment.

- In **Malaysia**, a U-report survey was conducted to capture concerns about going back to school. 81% of respondents were girls and 56.3% were below 18 years old. The survey found that 89% are happy that the schools are re-opening and they are happy to go back to school. Very few said they that are not used to online learning, which they said was difficult at first. While, a slight majority of respondents (56.5%) were able to access online learning, a large number could not due to internet connectivity and chores in the house. On the experience of learning from home, for most respondents it was not easy. The biggest worry reported about going back to school is catching up with studies and curriculum (40.3%), followed by exposure to COVID-19 (33.9%).
- In **Mongolia**, results from an assessment of the effectiveness of TV lessons concluded that 16% of the students sampled were not able to watch TV lessons properly. The results also demonstrate that about 6% of the total students sampled do not have a TV, computer or mobile phone, underlining the likelihood of these children are not able to learn through TV lessons. In particular, children from herder families, children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families as well as school students who were already lagging behind are at higher risk of being left behind in terms of learning. Therefore, there is a critical need to explore an alternative educational service delivery modality, including provision of printed learning materials and/or technological solutions that work in offline modes.
- In **Timor-Leste**, data collection for Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey is on-going, so far completed in seven out of 13 municipalities with a total of 7,931 out of 12,896 households visited, reaching 6,746 out of 9,048 children. UNICEF is also supporting a UN-wide Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, led by UNDP, for which data has been collected in five municipalities and is currently being analysed.
- In **Myanmar**, a UNICEF-led socio-economic assessment “Overcoming Child Poverty – Investing in human capital, responding to COVID-19” was finalized in July. It includes statistical modelling of the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty, a simulation exercise of the mitigating effects of cash transfers on poverty, the results from the household level monitoring exercise, and an analysis of public finances. In addition, the fourth and final round of monitoring information from households was collected in the month of July, and it is being compiled into a report that looks at COVID-related household-level changes between April and July.
- In **Thailand**, a report on the impact of COVID-19 on children living in lockdown villages in the southernmost provinces of Thailand is being finalized. The initial findings show that in the 98 villages surveyed, limited support was available for families and children. Despite a sharp increase in reports of sexual abuse during the lockdown, health access was limited due to social distancing measures, and the closure of schools had a huge impact on child nutrition. The report also concludes that poor families in lockdown villages reported increased levels of abuse, had limited access to online and distance learning for children and experienced high levels of household food insecurity.

Funding

UNICEF revised its Global HAC for the COVID-19 response in July 2020 and is now seeking US\$1.9 billion globally. As part of that appeal, **the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan budget increased to US\$162 million**. So far, **a total of US\$99 million** has been received for the region from different donors, including the Governments of Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, the European Commission, China, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, CERF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Solidarity Fund, several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, Denmark, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, UK and USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$62.9 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. UNICEF

acknowledges the generous contribution of donors including private sectors supporting this joint effort to respond and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the East Asia and Pacific region. Please refer to Annex B for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

Internal and External Media

- ASEAN Today, [What does the rise of online learning during COVID-19 mean for Southeast Asia?](#), 14 Aug 2020
- Nikkei Asian Review, [On the ground in Vietnam's new COVID epicenter of Danang](#), 13 Aug 2020
- Bangkok Post, [Classes resume but anxious ministry keeps close watch](#), 13 Aug 2020
- Reuters, [Indonesian teachers warn of new virus clusters as schools reopen](#), 13 Aug 2020
- UNICEF, [2 in 5 schools around the world lacked basic handwashing facilities prior to COVID-19 pandemic — UNICEF, WHO](#), 13 Aug 2020
- RNZ, [Fiji academic warns of mental health threat post-pandemic](#), 11 Aug 2020
- The Straits Times, [Record-low reports of seasonal flu amid global social distancing](#), 10 Aug 2020
- VOA News, [Chatbots and Telemedicine Join Vietnam's COVID-19 Fight](#), 10 Aug 2020
- Al Jazeera, [Thailand protests heat up as economy worsens amid pandemic](#), 9 Aug 2020
- The Thaiger, [Worldwide Covid-19 Recovery Index puts Thailand at No. 1](#), 30 Jul 2020
- SCMP, [Pacific island nations beat coronavirus, but now face economic devastation: report](#), 30 Jul 2020
- Khmer Times, [National policy on child protection to provide equal opportunities to all children](#), 30 Jul 2020

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2020 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
Risk Communication and Community Engagement			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services*	630,499,412	793,922,733	-
Number of children reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19 on personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices (specific to schools and early childhood development centres (ECD) centres)	300,651,407	108,661,338	▲ 106,516
Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services			
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	282,540	295,820	▲ 27,690
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	8,485,549	5,886,901	▲ 661,868
Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services			
Number of health facilities staff and community health workers trained in detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	534,808	530,095	▲ 83,323
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	553,198	434,469	▲ 77,026
Number of women and children that have continued access to obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services	8,061,800	4,359,743	▲ 87,122
Number of people reached with nutrition messages in the context of COVID-19	17,886,412	20,155,974	▲ 2,155,462
Number children that have access to essential nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic period**	4,181,879	3,786,215	▲ 2,262,683
Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	80,720,967	70,598,139	▲ 99,754
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	283,387	364,255	▲ 98,943
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with mental health and psychosocial support***	53,707,644	51,444,527	▲ 402,415
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	22,010,369	17,489,692	▲ 5,747,242

*As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored the possibility of double counting.

** UNICEF activities contribute to providing access to essential nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

*** The activity includes all direct and indirect mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions ranging from individual and group counselling and large scale MHPSS messaging.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	2020 Requirements	2020 Funds Received	2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
			\$	%	
Risk Communication	\$ 22,916,656	\$ 15,556,987	\$ 7,359,669	32%	\$ -
Supplies and WASH Services	\$ 55,316,922	\$ 36,468,941	\$ 18,847,981	34%	\$ 3,189,867
Health and Nutrition Services	\$ 34,014,727	\$ 23,814,789	\$ 10,199,938	30%	\$ -
Continuation of Education, Child Protection and Social Protection	\$ 40,090,945	\$ 18,184,313	\$ 21,906,632	55%	\$ 14,024,531
Data Collection and Analysis	\$ 7,055,011	\$ 3,478,967	\$ 3,576,044	51%	\$ -
Regional Coordination and Support	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,543,886	\$ 1,056,114	41%	\$ -
Total	\$ 161,994,261	\$ 99,047,883	\$ 62,946,378	39%	\$ 17,214,398

Country	2020 Requirements	2020 Funding Available		2020 Funding Gap		2021 Funds Received
		Newly Received	Reprogrammed	\$	%	
Cambodia	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 4,004,108	\$ 21,500	\$ 2,974,392	42%	\$ -
China	\$ 7,176,600	\$ 3,701,493	\$ -	\$ 3,475,107	48%	\$ -
DPRK	\$ 4,658,362	\$ 474,900	\$ -	\$ 4,183,462	90%	\$ -
Indonesia	\$ 26,377,728	\$ 16,308,177	\$ -	\$ 10,069,551	38%	\$ -
Lao DPR	\$ 10,461,610	\$ 7,394,972	\$ -	\$ 3,066,638	29%	\$ 3,209,531
Malaysia	\$ 2,484,000	\$ 1,013,142	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,320,858	53%	\$ -
Mongolia	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,196,080	\$ -	\$ 5,803,920	73%	\$ -
Myanmar	\$ 24,482,374	\$ 13,239,991	\$ 177,000	\$ 11,065,383	45%	\$ 5,270,000
Pacific	\$ 19,749,680	\$ 18,006,928	\$ 235,000	\$ 1,507,752	8%	\$ -
Papua New Guinea	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 11,301,677	\$ 719,000	\$ -20,677	0%	\$ 7,129,867
Philippines	\$ 18,215,685	\$ 3,657,797	\$ 2,991,612	\$ 11,566,276	63%	\$ -
Timor-Leste	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 6,731,859	\$ 546,925	\$ 921,216	11%	\$ 1,605,000
Thailand	\$ 3,476,780	\$ 1,809,546	\$ -	\$ 1,667,234	48%	\$ -
Viet Nam	\$ 7,111,442	\$ 2,822,290	\$ -	\$ 4,289,152	60%	\$ -
Regional Office	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,543,886	\$ -	\$ 1,056,114	41%	\$ -
Total	\$ 161,994,261	\$ 94,206,846	\$ 4,841,037	\$ 62,946,378	39%	\$ 17,214,398

* Funds available for 2020 and 2021 are part of multi-year contributions.