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# East Asia and Pacific Region

## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation Report No. 2

unicef   
for every child

Reporting Period: 29 February – 13 March 2020

### Highlights

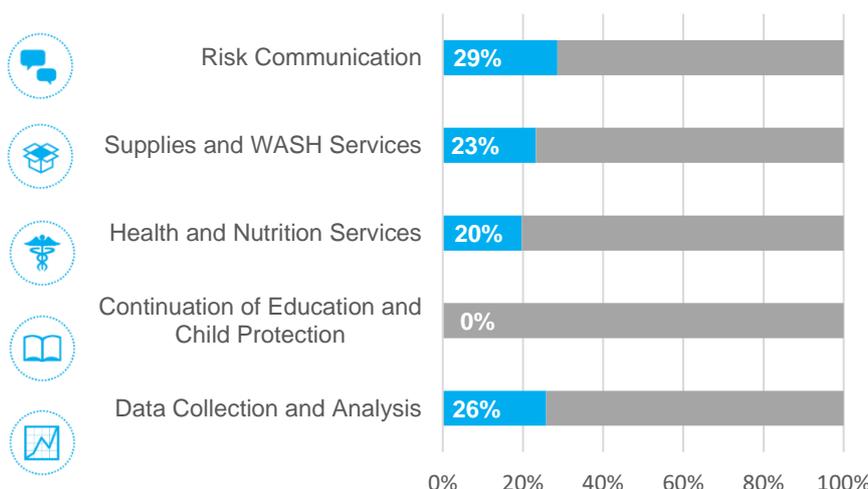
- As of 12 March 2020, 125,048 cases were confirmed positive of COVID-19 globally with 4,613 deaths. 80,981 confirmed cases are in China and an additional 8,996 confirmed cases in other East Asia and Pacific countries with 7,869 cases in the Republic of Korea, 620 cases in Japan, 178 cases in Singapore, 70 cases in Thailand, 70 cases in Malaysia, 39 cases in Vietnam, 52 cases in the Philippines, 34 cases in Indonesia and 3 cases in Cambodia, 1 case in Mongolia and 1 case in French Polynesia.
- The size and evolution of the outbreak and current knowledge on its ability to be transmitted through communities, signals that the virus could still spread further within the region, despite the efforts by national authorities and the international community to contain it. While the virus has been spreading quickly other regions, the East Asia and Pacific region remains heavily burdened. Urgent efforts are needed to contain the outbreak and to prepare health systems and communities to mitigate the impacts.
- UNICEF has delivered 118,791 N95 and 180,850 surgical masks, 38,543 protective suits, 13,844 gowns, 45,632 protective goggles, 1.2 million surgical gloves, 20,004 heavy-duty/examination gloves, 4,991 sample collection kits and 5,916 thermometers to the Government of China for immediate dispatch to Wuhan and Beijing. Regionally, UNICEF plans to deliver US\$12.2 million in supplies to support the response.
- So far, UNICEF has reached over 80 million people with its transmission prevention messages and provided critical health supplies to China, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. UNICEF plans to reach an additional 210 million people throughout the region. Additional resources are needed for a response, including for supplies and programmatic support.

### East Asia and Pacific Situation in Numbers

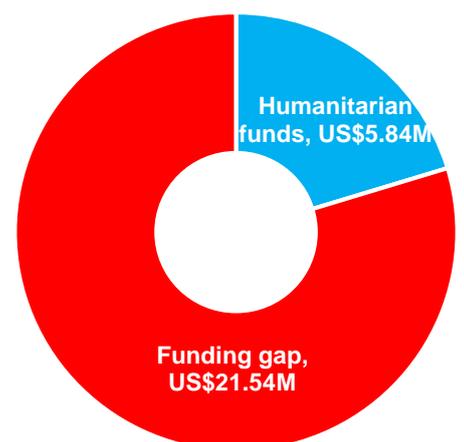
-  **89,977**  
Laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV cases
-  **3,258**  
COVID-2019 deaths
-  **255,000,000**  
Children housebound due to COVID-19-related school closures
-  **US\$27.02 million \***  
funding requirement for the regional response

\*Accounting for the evolving situation, UNICEF updated its response plan

### UNICEF's Funding Status



### Regional Funding Status 2020 (US\$)



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), there currently remains uncertainty around susceptibility and the full extent of clinical features of infection in children and pregnant women. While the response by China and other countries in the region has been unprecedented, medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, have started to run short across the East Asia and Pacific region. Countries with weaker health systems and limited capacity to deal with a major disease outbreak are at particular risk. The outbreak also has major secondary impacts across the region. School closures implemented by several countries in the region to contain the spread of the virus affect the learning of 255 million students and may have unintended consequences in terms of child protection, if alternative care arrangements are not in place. The impact of the closure of companies and economic slowdown is mostly felt by those families that were already on unstable and low wages. Moreover, COVID-19 poses a risk to women in particular in a direct way as women are overrepresented among healthcare workers, and indirect ways such as a surge in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) during crises and a drop in care and support of GBV survivors. UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 outbreak therefore focusses on the reduction of human-to-human transmission as well as the mitigation of the secondary impacts of the crisis, in line with WHO's Strategic Response Plan.

## 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 other partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control (CDCs), NGO partners and the private sector. With the support of UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Country Offices developed a regional response plan aligned with WHO's Strategic Response Plan that covers the following areas: (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) critical supply and logistics and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, (3) provision of healthcare and nutrition services, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services and (5) data collection and analysis.

## Summary of UNICEF's Preparedness and Response Actions in the Region:

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

In the East Asia and the Pacific region, UNICEF is providing public information on how to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly how to protect children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. To gauge awareness and availability of accurate information, UNICEF is also engaged in "social listening" by closely monitoring the public's perception of the COVID-19 situation in programme countries and actively conducting polls among youth.

- **All UNICEF Country Offices in the East Asia and Pacific region** continued to disseminate information about transmission preventions through printed media, television, radio and social media.
- In **China**, UNICEF's messaging of essential COVID-19 information has been viewed over 75 million times. UNICEF is also working with WHO to plan a "back to school" campaign to address potential risks of new infections after schools reopen.
- UNICEF in **Mongolia** reached 2 million people, about two thirds of the country's population, through social and traditional media with COVID-19 transmission prevention and preparedness messaging.
- In **Lao PDR**, the Government adopted the draft COVID-19 Communication Strategy that was drafted by UNICEF. The strategy will soon be finalized with partners' inputs.
- To counter misinformation, UNICEF is monitoring social media. In **Thailand, Indonesia and Pacific Island Countries (PIC)**, UNICEF offices released media statements cautioning the public for misinformation, including links to accurate information on preventative measure that people can take. In **Lao PDR**, UNICEF supported a national media orientation of key messages and the media's role in managing misinformation.
- In **Myanmar**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Sports with a media briefing, which was attended by 43 different news agencies. UNICEF is also drafting a C4D strategy with the Ministry, which will be informed by the results of 8,600 responses to a recent U-report poll about information needs and sourcing.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to co-lead with the IFRC, the Risk Communication and Community Engagement working group, and presented the social media communication strategy to the President's Office.
- In **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, disseminated messages on effective handwashing and personal hygiene in schools in Port Moresby.
- In the **PIC**, the timely deployment of two communication specialists to support Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia was challenged by travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF is engaging community and religious leaders, students and teachers to raise awareness about measures to prevent transmission, including handwashing in hygiene practices. Together with the Ministry of Education and the Embassy of New Zealand, UNICEF launched a COVID-19 awareness campaign in pre-schools in various municipalities.

- In **Thailand**, UNICEF is supporting the Government with transmission preventions messaging in schools and ECD centers and migrant communities.

### Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services

UNICEF is providing critical hygiene, medical and prevention supplies to support the control of transmission in healthcare settings and communities and strengthen health systems' response capacities. As in many countries in the East Asia and Pacific region Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other health supplies cannot or can no longer be sourced locally, UNICEF's support is critical to fill supply gaps.

- In **China, Malaysia, Lao PDR, PNG and PICs**, UNICEF procured essential PPE, other medical equipment in support of a healthcare system response as well as handwashing supplies.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF provided the Government with 20 tents for hospital triage systems.
- In **China**, UNICEF continued to deliver critical PPE supplies for dispatch to Wuhan. So far, UNICEF, handed over to the Government, a total of 118,791 N95 and 180,850 surgical masks, 38,543 protective suits, 13,844 gowns, 45,632 protective goggles, 1.2 million surgical gloves, 20,004 heavy-duty/examination gloves, 4,991 sample collection kits and 5,916 thermometers. Meanwhile, the delivery of six different types of hospital equipment and additional PPE procured locally is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of March.
- UNICEF supported the **Cambodian** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport with the preparation of a handwashing in schools campaign, a first round of which will be conducted in 413 urban areas.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF developed a partnership with Mercy Malaysia for hygiene education and the distribution of hygiene to children in Alternative Learning Centers and their communities in Sabah.

### Supplies and Logistics Challenges

Although UNICEF has many pre-existing long-term agreements with local suppliers, local sourcing has become more challenging as stocks of certain PPE articles have been running low, globally and in the region, since the COVID-19 outbreak, mainly due to increased demand and decreased supply of PPE articles from China. In **PNG**, masks and hand sanitizer was no longer available on local markets. In addition to geographical conditions that challenge logistics, **PIC** also face local market supply shortages due of PPE and laboratory equipment. New export regulations by some European member states have delayed seven-metric tons of supplies to **China**.

### 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. At the same time, UNICEF is also ensuring the continued provision of adequate health care, including nutritional services, for children, pregnant women and vulnerable communities.

- In **China**, UNICEF supported the national CDC to develop four online training packages for health and public health workers across China. The four modules were released on the 'National Continuing Medical Education platform' by the National Health Commission and together registered more than 50,000 learners.
- Supporting the **Mongolian** Ministry of Health, UNICEF finalized a chatbot for the Ministry's Facebook to address FAQ on COVID-19.

### Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

UNICEF is supporting the continued access to of education, early child development (ECD) and child protection services, including integrated case management, alternative care and mental health and psychosocial support services. UNICEF is also supporting the preparedness of education, ECD and child protection services for possible COVID-19 outbreak in the region. Jointly with WHO and IFRC and with the support of Country Offices and the East Asia Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF released a guidance document on *Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools*.

- In **China**, under the UNICEF-supported Barefoot Social Worker (BFSW) Programme, BFSWs have been undertaking public education, household visits of children affected by COVID-19, and guiding parents on supporting children's learning at home, and monitoring violence against children (VAC) in the community. So far, the BFSWs have shared various resource with an estimated 100,000 social workers and other caregivers.
- In **PNG**, UNICEF trained 22 implementing partners and key staff from the social welfare sector on preparedness, response and coordination related to COVID-19.
- In **Lao PDR**, UNICEF produced and disseminated 6,000 advocacy toolkits with mental health and psychological support messages for village-level child protection workers.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to develop guidelines to ensure safe schools operations during an outbreak.
- UNICEF in **Indonesia** successfully advocated with the Ministry of Education to issue a circular letter among the education sector with a focus on optimising coordination with the health sector, ensuring handwashing with soap and

supporting hygiene in public facilities, monitoring supporting and reporting absenteeism related to illness in coordination with the health sector, as well as social distancing and other preventative measures.

- UNICEF **Mongolia** Country Office supported the translation of TV lessons into minority languages, which were watched by 2,000 children from ethnic minorities.
- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to develop online learning methods to provide continuous learning in Siem Reap, where schools have temporarily been closed.

## Data Collection, Analysis and Research

To better understand trends, vulnerabilities and the impact on women and children, UNICEF is collecting and analysing data as well as conducting research on the impact of the disease on children and women and the measures taken to contain it.

- At the **regional level**, UNICEF is developing a questionnaire to assess the impact of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions on children and their families.
- The **China** Country Office conducted a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on social behaviours among pregnant women and caregivers continued to be undertaken through the Healthy Family App. The results are currently being analyzed.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF is closely monitoring the situation of children and families during school and kindergarten closure due to COVID-19 preparedness/response.

## Funding

UNICEF launched a global Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) seeking US\$42.3 million. As part of that appeal, the East Asia and Pacific regional response plan budget totals US\$27.02 million. So far, a total of US\$5.48 million has been received from different donors, including USAID, several private donors, Seoul Metropolitan Government, ChildFund Korea and WHO. UNICEF is currently in discussion with the Government of Japan and private donors to raise funding for the US\$21.54 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. UNICEF disbursed an internal loan of US\$3 million from its Emergency Response Fund to enable Country Offices to immediately kick start their response efforts. This internal loan will have to be repaid with other funding. Please refer to Annex A for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

## Internal and External Media

- France24: China coronavirus epicentre records single-digit cases as restrictions eased <https://amp.france24.com/en/20200312-china-coronavirus-epicentre-records-single-digit-cases-as-restrictions-eased>, 12 March 2020
- Statement by Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships, on coronavirus misinformation <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-charlotte-petri-gornitzka-unicef-deputy-executive-director-partnerships>, 6 March 2020
- UNESCO: 290 million students out of school due to COVID-19: UNESCO releases first global numbers and mobilizes response <https://en.unesco.org/news/290-million-students-out-school-due-covid-19-unesco-releases-first-global-numbers-and-mobilizes>, 4 March 2020
- UNICEF's Global Appeal for US\$42.3 million: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-appeals-us423-million-support-global-covid-19-outbreak-response>, 17 February 2020
- WHO's live 2019-nCoV dashboard: <http://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/c88e37cfc43b4ed3baf977d77e4a0667>

## Next SitRep: 29 March 2020

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## Annex A: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk Communication	\$5,503,184	\$1,573,441	\$3,929,742	71%
Critical Supplies and WASH Services	\$12,219,905	\$2,838,937	\$9,380,968	77%
Health and Nutrition Services	\$4,344,000	\$855,622	\$3,488,378	80%
Ensuring Continuation of Education and Child Protection Services	\$4,114,450	-	\$4,114,450	100%
Data Collection and Analysis	\$838,400	\$216,000	\$622,400	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,019,939</b>	<b>\$5,484,000</b>	<b>\$21,535,938</b>	<b>80%</b>

Country	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
China	\$7,176,600	\$934,000	\$6,242,600	87%
Indonesia	\$4,071,600	\$496,800	\$3,574,800	88%
Cambodia	\$1,334,124	\$493,620	\$840,504	63%
DPRK	\$840,312	\$300,000	\$540,312	64%
Lao DPR	\$838,080	\$447,509	\$390,571	47%
Malaysia	\$49,896	-	\$49,896	100%
Mongolia	\$880,200	\$496,800	\$383,400	44%
Myanmar	\$3,338,390	\$597,750	\$2,740,640	82%
Pacific	\$2,245,320	\$250,000	\$1,995,320	89%
Papua New Guinea	\$1,566,000	-	\$1,566,000	100%
Philippines	\$524,880	\$447,509	\$77,371	15%
Timor-Leste	\$1,603,800	-	\$1,603,800	100%
Thailand	\$635,980	\$355,320	\$280,660	44%
Viet Nam	\$1,664,757	\$493,620	\$1,171,137	70%
Regional Coordination and Support	\$250,000	\$171,072	\$78,928	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,019,939</b>	<b>\$5,484,000</b>	<b>\$21,535,938</b>	<b>80%</b>