



UNICEF Europe & Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report No. 12

unicef 
for every child

23 July – 26 August

Highlights

UNICEF works in 22 countries and territories¹ in Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR) and is present in Italy, supporting refugee and migrant populations.

- Between July and August, a surge in new COVID-19 cases in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, and Turkey became a sharp reminder that preventive measures must be respected as containment measures are lifted and countries prepare to welcome children back to school.
- Over one million people have already benefited from critical WASH supplies, including hygiene items. In the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical guidance to Governments to ensure the safe re-opening of schools which highlighted the critical importance of having in place, adequate supplies of soap and sanitisers; strict protocols to implement safe distances, regular disinfecting and other measures; and comprehensive communication campaigns to encourage children, teachers and parents adhere to safe behaviours.
- UNICEF-supported distance learning in ECAR has already reached nearly 25 million children. During the reporting period, the launch of more inclusive learning platforms, teacher training on conducting online lessons more effectively, and the distribution of printed class material to children without internet access, will help improve the quality of learning for many who will continue their schooling from home.
- UNICEF has reached over 178 million people with COVID-19 prevention and safety messages through online platforms and social media. During the reporting period, in the context of COVID-19, UNICEF's region-wide social media campaign promoting Breastfeeding Week offered much-needed answers and reassurance for new parents. UNICEF also engaged a range of health professionals, from nurses to hospital specialists, on UNICEF/WHO technical guidance on safe breastfeeding.
- Close to 2.2 million children, parents and primary caregivers were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support.
- UNICEF's Office of Research-Innocenti published "[Supporting Families and Children beyond COVID-19: Social Protection in Southern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)" which provides a critical analysis to support strong, evidence-based advocacy to maintain spending levels for child-focused social services and raise the profile of social protection programmes as a proven response to crises.



977,716 COVID-19 cases in 22 countries**



21,730 COVID-19 deaths in 22 countries**



\$149 million funding requirement for ECAR response

¹Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

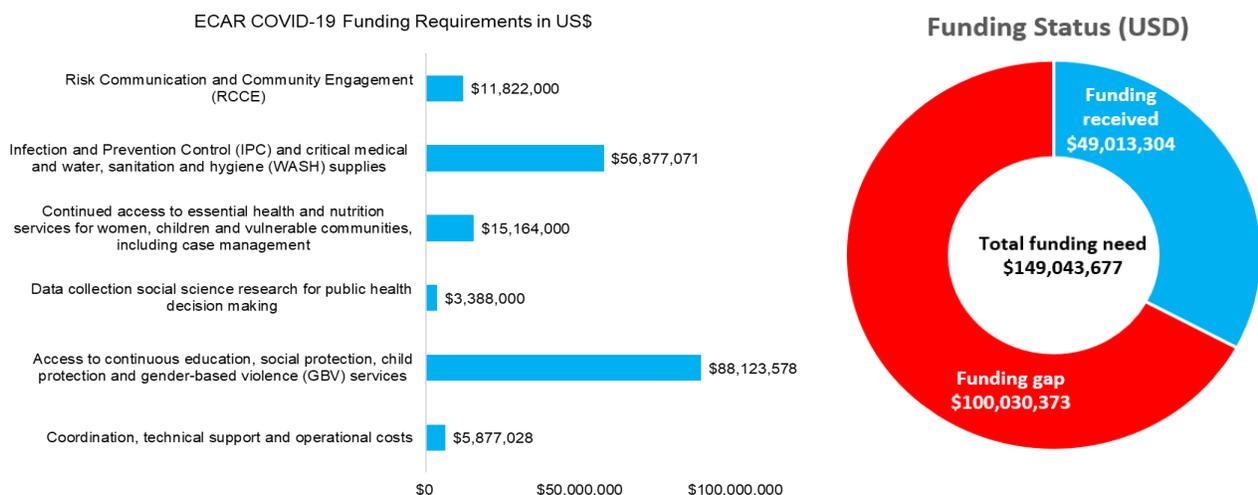
*In line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 124)

**Source: World Health Organization (WHO), as of 26 August. Figures do not include Italy

Photo: In Albania, classes resume in mid-September with social distancing and other protocols in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Under UNICEF’s Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the COVID-19 response, ECAR is appealing for a little over **\$149 million**. Against this target, ECAR has raised more than **\$49 million²**, or nearly **33%** of the required funding. UNICEF is grateful for continued support of all donors to the response. Contributions received during the reporting period are acknowledged from the European Union (Azerbaijan), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (Turkey), the Government of the United States (Turkey, Ukraine), the UN Multi-donor Trust Fund (Belarus), and private sector partners IKEA (Croatia) and Proctor & Gamble (Ukraine).



Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Summer holiday travel, reactivated businesses and more relaxed social interaction contributed to significant increases in new COVID-19 cases during the reporting period. The highest jumps were recorded in Moldova (305 cases per 100,000 people) followed by Kosovo (291), Bosnia and Herzegovina (251), Romania (191), Albania (145), Croatia (122) and Ukraine (116). Turkey also experienced an increase in new infections, with 47 cases per 100,000 people registered in the last month. In Greece, where there are currently 54 cases per 100,000 people, a new case was detected among the refugee and migrant population at the Open Accommodation Site (OAS) in Drama, north-eastern Greece and brings the total number of confirmed cases among refugees and migrants to 219, including 13 children. In Italy, the National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (INMP) published a study showing that in May and June, there were 239 confirmed COVID-19 cases among refugees and migrants in 68 reception facilities. The study also showed that only 54% of this infected population were able to self-isolate. In the general Italian population, after a period of stabilisation that lasted from May to July, the number of new cases has begun to rise.

In contrast, the number of new COVID-19 infections per 100,000 people has noticeably declined in Armenia (from 551 to 177) and Kyrgyzstan (from 484 to 128). In Kazakhstan, the number of cases dropped by 150. In August (compared to July) there were slight to moderate declines in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Tajikistan. In Turkmenistan there are still no officially confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, during a recent call with the WHO Director General, the President stressed that currently there is a spread of pneumonia of an atypical nature in the region and that “there is an opinion” that it is caused by COVID-19.

All ECAR countries, including those experiencing a resurgence in infection rates, have been preparing to launch the 2020-21 academic year. UNICEF has prioritised working with Ministries of Education (MoE) and Health (MoH) and school authorities to support safe classroom re-openings by ensuring adequate WASH facilities and supplies; designing and implementing comprehensive back-to-school campaigns promoting safe behaviours required of children, teachers and parents; and building teacher capacity and pedagogical resources to better support children who will continue learning at home.

When schools open, children will face a range of scenarios designed to maximise their safety. These measures will typically include smaller class sizes, shorter lessons, and staggered re-entry into classrooms. Many children, particularly in older grades, will continue to learn at home either part- or full-time. In some countries (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, North Macedonia) a significant proportion of parents have questioned whether school premises are adequately equipped and

² List of donors to HAC appeal available on request. The impact resulting from these contributions will be documented in progress and annual donor reports, according to schedules agreed with individual donors. UNICEF is also grateful for support enabling the ongoing response to refugee and migrants in Europe, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of these vulnerable children and families, UNICEF acknowledges: the European Union, the Government of the United States (BPRM), CEB, Education Cannot Wait, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF National Committees (France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United States).

monitored to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection. In some countries (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine) authorities have emphasised that shifts in the epidemiological situation will determine adjustments or reversals in current re-opening plans. Some countries implementing a blended learning modality have given parents the option of keeping their children at home (e.g., Serbia, Uzbekistan), while others (e.g., Bulgaria) will not allow parental discretion.

On 17 August, all schools in Tajikistan re-opened, strictly observing Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) national school safety standards. In the first week of September, more countries (e.g., Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kosovo* Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine) will re-open schools. With few exceptions, in-person attendance will be phased. By 7 September, schools will re-open in Croatia, and Greece. In the third week, phased re-opening will take place in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Romania, and Uzbekistan. On 21 September, Turkey will resume schools with blended learning opportunities. The distribution of printed learn-at-home kits to refugee and migrant children will continue to be an important part of preparations. On 1 October, schools will re-open in Montenegro and North Macedonia, but only children from younger grades will be back in classrooms.

Across ECAR, the diversion of public health and social services resources to address the pandemic has amplified pre-existing inequalities. External factors sometimes make it very difficult for governments to keep COVID-19 contained while minimising its impact on the most vulnerable families and children. During the reporting period, an ever-growing body of evidence documented the wide-ranging impacts of lockdown measures on children and families. For example:

- **Belarus:** According to a completed UNICEF-World Bank COVID-19 Rapid Online Survey, there is an increase in signs of depression among parents especially among those facing job losses and financial insecurity. Growing public debt, and recent protests and strikes have further strained family incomes. On 14 August, UNICEF's Regional Director for ECA reaffirmed UNICEF's readiness to support all actions that protect the rights and well-being of Belarus' children who have witnessed or directly suffered from the political violence, and need immediate medical, psychological and legal support.
- **Croatia:** Findings from a UNICEF-supported survey on the situation of women and children who are victims of violence, found shelters at 65% occupancy during lockdown. Over 56% of those seeking shelter were children. The study also confirmed that shelters are facing difficulties due to funding cuts.
- **Kazakhstan's** socio-economic impact assessment commissioned for the UN Country Team found one in five parents of school age children noted the deterioration of their child's psycho-emotional state during the quarantine period.
- **North Macedonia:** A UNICEF-led socio-economic impact report concluded that mitigation efforts so far will not prevent 16,000 children from falling below the poverty threshold. The research confirmed that the pandemic has raised levels of domestic violence, and that school disruptions have put more children at risk of falling behind in learning.
- **Romania:** An ongoing COVID-19 Rapid Assessment found that most people identified unemployment and reduced access to health services as the top two challenges resulting from the pandemic.
- **Tajikistan:** Although stunting affects 18% of children under five years old, life-saving nutrition services have been suspended or de-prioritised due to COVID-19, raising fears that child mortality may worsen. Remittances from Russia have dropped sharply, and more children are expected to join the one million who already live below the national poverty line.

Partnerships & Coordination

In several countries (e.g., Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan and others), UNICEF collaborated with other UN agencies to finalise and launch consolidated socio-economic recovery and response plans, focused on most vulnerable groups. As well, UNICEF's entry into new multi-partner initiatives provided an opportunity for different agencies and stakeholders to combine complementary strengths to support activities where needs have been intensified by COVID-19. For example:

- **Croatia:** UNICEF's new partnership with the Zagreb Stock Exchange (ZSE) will raise awareness on child rights via the ZSE's web and social media channels and through direct appeals to ZSE members.
- **Georgia:** UNICEF's partnership and the Czech Development Agency will support strengthening of primary health care, especially in emergencies, through a joint programme between UNICEF and the charitable foundation, Caritas Georgia.
- **Italy:** UNICEF's partnership with UNHCR and IOM for joint advocacy, activity planning and implementation as part of the interagency COVID-19 Taskforce, will focus on national contingency planning for COVID-19 around Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) in search and rescue operations and in reception centres.
- **Kosovo*:** Through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Network, ten private and public sector companies joined UNICEF on #united4children initiative which prioritises joint advocacy and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Turkey:** UNICEF continued to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), implemented by UN and NGO partners and led by the inter-agency Syria Response Group. UNICEF

and 3RP partners have completed a revision of planned activities within the 3RP framework to reflect additional needs of affected populations due to COVID-19 and impact it has on refugee and migrant populations and host communities.

Preparedness and Response Actions

Supplies: Distribution of supplies focused on meeting the needs of health and other service providers; ensuring classrooms can be safe for returning children and staff; and enabling children and families in the most vulnerable communities to protect themselves from COVID-19. Life-saving medical equipment that UNICEF delivered to hospitals and healthcare centres included oxygen concentrators and/or related oxygen therapy supplies in Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Tajikistan. UNICEF also delivered a range of personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or hygiene supplies to healthcare institutions and marginalised families in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services: UNICEF supported several countries (e.g., Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) in adapting global UNICEF/WHO messaging, communication materials and health and technical experts to campaign for World Breastfeeding Week. In addition to tailored messages disseminated under the “support breastfeeding for a healthier world” tagline, UNICEF amplified messages on social media channels and hosted livestreamed talks with well-known paediatricians and breastfeeding advocates. UNICEF also targeted healthcare professionals, reinforcing knowledge on WHO/UNICEF breastfeeding guidelines.

UNICEF in partnership with Government, healthcare experts and NGOs, also worked to ensure children and families had continued access to health information and basic health services. Outreach on a variety of mother and child health issues was achieved through a range of modalities. For example:

- **Azerbaijan:** UNICEF provided technical and financial support to Regional Development Public Union (RDPU) social media platforms to reach parents with information on early childhood development (ECD) topics like child hygiene, psychological development. Five expert livestreams covered speech development, nutrition, social development and physical exercise.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNICEF, in partnership with Roma health mediators, complemented home visits with intensive social media campaigns on COVID-19 prevention and routine immunization. A partnership with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) helped ensure provision of paediatric services in temporary reception centres (TRCs) Sedra and Borići, and with NGO Fenix in Una-Sana Canton (USC), World Vision in TRC Ušivak and refugee reception centre (RRC) in Salakovac, provided nutrition support, including breastfeeding and infant feeding counselling for mothers through Mother Baby Corners (MBC).
- **Bulgaria:** UNICEF helped enable the resumption of home visiting services providing counselling on nutrition, health, and caregiving to expectant parents and families with children under three years old.
- **Croatia:** Online education for pregnancy and parenting during COVID-19 reached an additional 280 pregnant women and their partners (raising total reach to 1,148 since the launch in July). UNICEF supported preparation of a comprehensive report on care practices focused on family and breastfeeding during the COVID-19 epidemic in the country’s six newborn intensive care units (NICUs).
- **Georgia:** UNICEF’s virtual antenatal care programme expanded its reach to 15,628 pregnant women, of which 42% participated in virtual medical consultations. The Administration of All Muslims of Georgia disseminated UNICEF local language educational materials on COVID-19 to families in their community.
- **Italy:** 76 individuals were reached with health screenings supported by UNICEF partners i.e., INTERSOS mobile team in transit areas and informal settlements in Rome and by Médecins du Monde (MdM) providing vulnerable migrants and refugees health and psychosocial information and screenings.
- **Kosovo*:** 1,800 children and parents benefited from direct regular tele-health counselling on safe pregnancy, immunization, breastfeeding and nurturing care through home visiting programme in 22 municipalities.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** approximately 418 out of 600 children of parents who had refused vaccination services changed their minds as a result of social mobilisation and awareness-raising conducted by UNICEF partners. Improvements to the country’s cold chain capacity at health facility level via the Joint Cold Chain Equipment Optimisation Platform (CCEOP), are underway and 275 out of 341 CCEs have been installed.
- **North Macedonia:** UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoH to develop by-laws supporting the establishment of tele-health counselling services for home visits. Software is under development to digitalise the reporting function of home visitors and centralise real-time data collection.
- **Serbia:** UNICEF’s partnership with the MoH and the Association of Health Mediators secured the continuity of health care provided by Roma Health Mediators through telephone interventions. During the reporting period, 14,111 Roma people were reached, including 5,420 children.

- **Turkey:** UNICEF partnered with MoH to produce printed materials (e.g., posters, vaccination calendar cards, leaflets) in Turkish and Arabic languages aimed at strengthening demand for health facility-based routine immunization programme.
- **Ukraine:** Promotional materials reinforcing vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic were produced and disseminated through UNICEF and MoH's social media channels, reaching over 400,000 users.

During the reporting period, UNICEF efforts to continue building capacity of healthcare professionals has been key in ensuring the continuity of services during the pandemic and are also investments in strengthening health care systems well beyond COVID-19. International cooperation was evident in strengthening a subregion-wide response. For example, UNICEF brought together healthcare professionals of Central Asia and those from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Germany, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom to share experiences and discuss the challenges around epidemiology; the clinical management of children with COVID-19; ensuring continuity of essential services, including for children with chronic diseases; the effects of lockdown on children and adolescents; and transitioning back to normal health care services. At country level:

- **Armenia:** UNICEF conducted training for 550 health providers (paediatricians, family physicians, neonatologists, nurses).
- **Belarus:** UNICEF supported the Belarusian Medical Academy of Post Diploma Studies (BelMAPO) in conducting webinars on diagnostics, treatment and prophylactics of COVID-19 for 38 paediatricians, neonatologists, gynaecologists, infectious disease specialists.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNICEF supported completion of training for 708 health workers who will carry out home visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional 147 neonatologists were trained on the provision of newborn care in the context of COVID-19. 85 Village Health Committees and experts of the Health Promotion Unit of the Family Medicine Centres of Osh province completed training on childcare during COVID-19.
- **Moldova:** In partnership with the Nova Association for Women and Children, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP), the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu", the National HIV/STI Prevention and Control Programme and WHO, UNICEF supported training of some 150 primary health care specialists on the provision of outpatient care services for pregnant women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar training on inpatient care was also provided to 100 obstetrician-gynaecologists and neonatologists.
- **Serbia:** UNICEF supported the operationalisation of a Yammer platform accessed by 134 home visiting nurses who reached some 4,000 families in the reporting period. Through the platform, nurses exchanged information and knowledge; coordinated work related to COVID-19; and provided support to families (including 1,017 pregnant women) with newborns and infants. UNICEF also supported the development of a Hermes information management platform enabling exchange between health professionals from approximately 200 health institutions.
- **Tajikistan:** UNICEF provided critical support to address the expanding gap in national acute malnutrition treatment services and scale-up the COVID-19 nutrition-related interventions, including the procurement of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF-BP100) for 3,200 children, training of over 100 health staff on the simplified integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) protocol in the context of COVID-19. UNICEF is providing infant and young child feeding (IYCF) training in the context of COVID-19 to health professionals as a preventive measure of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- **Ukraine:** UNICEF produced and tested a comprehensive counselling guide for healthcare workers on how to talk to patients about COVID-19, reaching over 50,000 professionals online to promote positive behaviours, decrease panic and reduce stigma and discrimination.
- **Uzbekistan:** UNICEF supported the MoH in developing an electronic vital statistics registration system and a pregnancy registry, engaging in technical consultations with IT specialists. UNICEF also supported the MoH in improving the patronage nursing system and a pocket guide on disease prevention, immunization and ECD was approved.

Infection, Protection and Control (IPC)/WASH Services: UNICEF efforts are helping to ensure that countries have the capacity to enable everyone in institutional or community settings to practice preventive hygiene. Advice on bringing WASH to a safe standard in line with WHO guidelines helped to inform national plans for the re-opening of schools in Romania, Tajikistan, among others.

- **Azerbaijan:** UNICEF partnered with local NGO, Reliable Future Social Initiatives Public Union and the Public Health and Reforms Centre of Ministry of Health and the Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions (TABIB) to strengthen capacity of 53 maternal and child health professionals via training of trainers (ToT) on IPC, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), and COVID-19 case management.
- **Georgia:** UNICEF partnered with Action Against Hunger to support the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in five schools, and health points in Abkhazia region. UNICEF's Country Representative met the Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Health, and the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to discuss IPC measures needed for re-opening of schools, including improving WASH access.

- Kazakhstan: UNICEF-supported webinars on WHO standards and guidelines to ensure WASH in hospital, conducted by IPC experts, reaching 570 health care workers of perinatal centres across 17 regions.
- Moldova: UNICEF supported the National Agency of Public Health to update more than 250 health workers from perinatal centres, maternities and primary health care on new IPC protocols. Six distance learning sessions were conducted in partnership with Nova Association for Women and Children, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and WHO.
- Ukraine: UNICEF initiated the distribution of e-vouchers for hygiene supplies to educational institutions to prepare schools for safe re-opening. Overall, 116 schools and 68 kindergartens in Donetsk and Luhansk Government Controlled Area (GCA) received e-vouchers that can be redeemed in the nearby partner shops. The e-vouchers will cover needs in hygiene items for the educational institutions for three months.
- Uzbekistan: UNICEF and MoH initiated a self-assessment by perinatal centres and children’s hospital on WASH issues.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE): New campaigns launched during the reporting period included: Breastfeeding Week (see p. 4: “Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services”) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and back-to-school campaigns ensuring children, teachers and parents understood and adhered to safety protocols (see p. 8: “Access to Continuous Learning”). In addition:

- Albania: UNICEF in partnership with the Albanian National Association of the Deaf (ANAD), launched an online communication campaign targeting the lack of accessible information, especially for children with hearing disabilities. Critical information about COVID-19 was adapted in sign language and disseminated through social media.
- Armenia: UNICEF joined WHO to mark the first “World Mask Week”. A special campaign page was developed to disseminate content, which included social media influencers and TV personalities giving reasons why they wear masks as a measure against spreading COVID-19.
- Georgia: UNICEF launched its “Parenting During Pandemic” campaign, which aims to better equip parents dealing with COVID-19-related stress, cyber risks and protection.

New content supporting ongoing RCCE activities to encourage safe behaviours to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are focusing on the personal responsibility of individuals to take preventive measures to stop transmission. Efforts also ensured reaching wider audiences, for example speakers of minority languages and people with disabilities. For example:

- Azerbaijan: Testimonial videos of recovered COVID-19 patients were produced and disseminated. In partnership with the Regional Development Public Union (RDPU), a TV talk show themed “the danger of not following prevention rules” reached 131,843 people. RDPU volunteers posted 300 posters on COVID-19 prevention in public venues.
- Bulgaria: a virtual discussion #CopingWithCOVID and the participation of a psychologist and youth activist champion for behavioural and social change, reached 373,391 and engaged 4,180 people on Facebook
- Georgia: In partnership with the Journalism Resource Centre, nine regional TV stations started broadcasting daily 15-minute COVID-19 news in Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani languages. The Administration of All Muslims of Georgia disseminated UNICEF provided educational materials on COVID-19 to their community members in local languages.
- Italy: UNICEF reached over 120,000 refugee and migrants with accurate, safe, culturally and gender appropriate messaging in multiple languages on COVID-19 with outreach activities and social media channels. In partnership with INTERSOS, over 200 individuals were reached with COVID-19 related information through in-person information session.
- Kazakhstan: UNICEF [drew attention](#) to the damaging impact of the pandemic on mental health. Advice, recommendations were delivered by expert partners like National Centre for Mental Health on [web platforms](#), newspapers.
- Kyrgyzstan: UNICEF, in partnership with the Republican Healthcare Center of the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross Society, Internews and UN Women, launched nationwide #Sakta campaign focusing on personal responsibility in preventing infection and promote social solidarity in fight against COVID-19, debunking disinformation.
- North Macedonia: UNICEF led in the work with other UN agencies in preparing and coordinating joint RCCE activities to respond to risks of infection associated with summer, for example an increase of large gatherings and travel. UNICEF designed and rolled out a billboard campaign targeting vacationers and urban populations.
- Tajikistan: UNICEF provided technical support to MoH and World Bank Group to develop, print, and disseminate nationwide, communication materials on COVID-19 prevention and nutrition.
- Turkey: UNICEF RCCE COVID-19 response plans include a wide range of activities that target Turkish, refugee and migrant children and families and are implemented closely with government and civil society partners. With an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in southeast Turkey, UNICEF Turkey developed an intensified, targeted RCCE plan to strengthen information dissemination and encourage the adoption of preventive behaviours and measures in the provinces of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Kilis, Hatay, and Adana.

- Ukraine: Content on basic preventive behaviours was included in a new brochure distributed to 300,000 social workers on using PPE and talking to families about COVID-19. The digital version reached over 1,300,000 people. UNICEF is raising awareness on hygiene practices among Roma's children living in Zakarpatiya. Since most individuals in this community people cannot read, and the spoken language is Hungarian, UNICEF and a local partner conducted information sessions using infographics, printed graphics and videos to explain COVID-19 risks and safe behaviours.

Engaging Adolescents and Young People: Countries such as Armenia used International Youth Day as a platform to amplify young people's views on the challenges they have experienced in the lockdown, and their recommendations towards a fairer and more inclusive future. In Kosovo, UNICEF and partners organized a meeting between 20 young people and Ministers on joint efforts to fight COVID-19 and beyond. In Uzbekistan, UNICEF facilitated children's participation in an online session to build a multi-country dialogue between young people and promoting the values of U-Report. Participants represented Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. UNICEF continued to support efforts to document views, opinion and ideas of youth so that these are included in the evidence base to make policy decisions to confront the pandemic and rebuild for future. Polls captured concerns on the impact of the pandemic, especially on employment and school (e.g., Albania, Armenia, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine) attitudes towards the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., Belarus), domestic violence and mental health (e.g., Bulgaria).

UNICEF worked with partners to implement an array of programmes aimed to keep youth at the forefront as leaders in community engagement, and to support them in building skills, and keeping physically and mentally healthy as the pandemic imposed new limits in daily life. For example:

- Croatia: Within the programme "ZABUM", UNICEF supported the invitation for 140 young people to enrol skills-building programme "Innovation Academy", particularly from communities most affected by COVID-19.
- Georgia: UNICEF operationalised the 111-telephone hotline to support adolescents struggling with substance abuse and online gambling, reportedly on the increase during the pandemic. In partnership with the Patriarchate of Georgia, UNICEF shared the findings of a study "International Experience on Gambling Prevention Among Adolescents" which is informing programming to protect children and young people from addiction.
- Italy: UNICEF engaged adolescent and young through the "Future We Want" (FWW) initiative. Forums covering well-being and domestic violence were amplified on Facebook. Young people participated in the final event of the "U-topia" pilot, organised in collaboration with the project DimOra! in Palermo.
- Kosovo*: In collaboration with Peer Educators Network (PEN), UNICEF organized virtual PODIUM workshops, "Youth Solutions for COVID-19" that reached 77,842 young people through UNICEF Innovations Lab social media channels; Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. As well, as part of the engagement with UN Kosovo Team on #UN75, UNICEF and the NGO partners, IPKO Foundation and DOKUFEST organized a virtual workshop, "Envisioning 2045".
- Kyrgyzstan: UNICEF launched a month-long national online youth peace dialogue under the leadership of the Youth State Agency. Communication platforms were established between government partners Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, as well as young people living in the border areas.
- Moldova: In partnership with the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises and local business incubators in districts of Cahul and Singerei, UNICEF launched the [digital edition](#) of UPSHIFT digital Edition. Upcoming projects will tackle COVID-19 related challenges faced by young people.
- Montenegro: UNICEF, the NGO partner [Digitalizuj.Me](#) and Telenor, organized online "Internet Security in the Age of COVID-19 Pandemic" workshops for adolescents on balancing the use of technology, online and offline communication styles, safeguarding against online fraud, and privacy and the internet. UNICEF supported new COVID-19 response activities developed by the Youth Innovation Lab and Special Olympics for Young People which includes the first fully digitised UPSHIFT skills building workshop.
- North Macedonia: UNICEF's youth-focused COVID-19 safety volunteer initiative, [Plant at Home](#) provided [COVID-19](#) quiz challenges that promoted mental health, zero waste and activities such as making masks. UNICEF volunteer Young Reporters supported safe behaviour during summer vacation by producing three videos on new ways to [greet friends](#) and enjoy [recreation activities](#) and [reasons to follow prevention measures](#).
- Turkey: UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), enabled COVID-19 "Mahalle Support Mechanism" (MSM) initiative, which engaged 151 youth volunteers to work with the most disadvantaged adolescents and their families across 25 provinces in Turkey. Nearly 10,000 adolescents (4,632 girls and 5,345 boys) benefitted from online training and social activities such as sports, quiz, arts challenges, engagement on YouTube and other online platforms.
- Uzbekistan: UNICEF supported the pilot of the online UPSHIFT bootcamp for 28 young people in Karakalpakstan. Participants obtained basic research, analytical, problem-solving, decision-making, team-working and presentation skills. With the support of mentors, young people were able to develop solutions for social problems they

and their peers face in communities. Five promising solutions were selected by an independent panel for further implementation with the support of seed-funding and mentoring.

Access to Continuous Learning: The most intensive area of UNICEF’s work during this reporting period was preparing schools for the return of children – either in classrooms or online. Comprehensive guidance, based on UNICEF’s global framework, was shared with Ministries of Education and other school, pedagogical and health authorities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, among others. Equally critical to informing guidance was a range of situation and needs assessments of individual countries (e.g., Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria Croatia, Ukraine, among others), which UNICEF often conducted jointly with UN agencies, including UNESCO, WFP and WHO.

For UNICEF, learning from experience of children and communities most often left behind (children with disabilities, children from Roma and other ethnic minority groups, children from refugee and migrant families) is essential for building resilience and inclusivity into programme design. In Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania (among other countries), UNICEF supported research that provided such insights to inform government decisions on implementing both safety protocols and learning modalities. This strengthened advocacy across several countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Montenegro) on using assistive technology or augmentative and alternative communication. Examples of other specific recommendations and actions to promote inclusive participation included:

- **Kazakhstan:** UNICEF recommended that schools focus on functionality rather than medical diagnosis when assessing children’s needs and to increase the capacity of teachers and school principals to implement and maintain individual learning plans, and to strengthen links between schools and Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical Consultations (PMPK)
- **Montenegro:** UNICEF supported the MoE and the Bureau of Education Services in enabling children with disabilities to use the free CBOARD web app as part of the programme “For Every Child: A Voice”. The app, developed in the COVID-19 context, helps children with different types of disabilities to express themselves using symbols and transferring text to speech. Also, UNICEF signed an agreement with the NGO Pedagogical Centre to support enrolment of Roma children in early childhood education to increase the number of Roma children in preschool and prevent drop out.
- **Turkey:** To ensure the continuity of learning of vulnerable Turkish and refugee children who have limited access to education, more than 75,000 “Learn at Home” kits were distributed in 61 provinces to support children in their learning while at home. Together with the Kilis Municipality, UNICEF provided 565 Turkish and Syrian children with remote homework support and Turkish language courses.

Using an extensive evidence base of global- and national-level findings and learnings, UNICEF, very frequently in collaboration with WHO, supported several countries (e.g., Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, among others) in designing and implementing back-to-school communication campaigns. These comprehensive packages featured child-friendly posters on COVID-19 preventive measures, typically featured special guides for parents; training manuals, booklets, videos, for teachers, school managers, and school health providers, and child-friendly communication materials (e.g., classroom posters, videos) for a range of ages.

Most countries have decided (or are contemplating) a blended approach for new academic year (see p.2-3: “Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs”). This means that a proportion of children will continue learning at home either full or part time. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported efforts to improve access to digital learning, and put children who are missing out on a more equal footing before school officially re-opens, for example:

- **Albania:** UNICEF continued support to Akademi.al, the only free public digital platform working under agreement with MoE. To date, 2,900 video lessons have been prepared and were aired over the summer on public TV to reach more children, particularly the most vulnerable.
- **Armenia:** UNICEF’s partner, National Centre for Educational Technologies (NCET) organized online consultations and meetings for students who dropped out of distance education during spring and wished to repeat the learning material of the previous academic year. Overall, 94 remote online consultations on 17 school subjects were organized for Grades 2 – 8 students all over the country. All lessons are readily accessible the [Government’s e-school website](#).
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** In partnership with Save the Children and World Vision, UNICEF launched the new non-formal education activity consisting of online English language learning through the Akelius language learning course. The platform has, initially reached 102 refugee children in temporary reception centres (TRCs).
- **Montenegro:** UNICEF in partnership with Telenor and through the initiative “Digital Safety for Every Child”, established and equipped an IT laboratory at the Ljubovic Centre for children in conflict with the law. This will enable children who are residing at the institution during the COVID-19 pandemic to acquire knowledge and online skills. It will also facilitate their learning process during the time when schools are closed or during remote learning periods.

- **Turkey:** During the school summer vacation, the online Education Information Network (EBA) recognised as the most important online learning platform in the country, continued to broadcast summer distance learning programmes. UNICEF supported the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) both financially and technically to ensure that national distance learning programmes can better meet the needs of all 17 million learners in Turkey, including over 650,000 Syrian and other refugee children, from Grades 1 to 12.

In preparation for school re-opening, UNICEF also supported efforts to enhance capacities of both teachers and parents to enable children to learn. For example:

- **Armenia:** UNICEF supported the National Centre of Educational Technologies (NCET) in the development and release of three on-line, self-paced learning courses for teachers on [Universal Design for Learning](#) (UDL) principles; and utilising [Google Online Classrooms](#) and [MS Teams for Online Learning](#).
- **Azerbaijan:** UNICEF helped the Institute of Education with UNICEF in developing a set of training materials for teachers to provide psychosocial support to learners and help students cope with stress when schools re-open.
- **Belarus:** UNICEF and the World Bank prepared webinars and training aimed at teachers, school psychologists, school social workers, principals and local education authorities on supporting management in school return, effective online learning, and ensuring inclusion of children with disabilities.
- **Kosovo*:** The MoE's UNICEF-supported ECD digital learning platform promoted reached 57,200 views with content providing parents with information on child development, importance of play, children with disabilities, and interaction with ECD experts.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNICEF supported the development of a methodological guide for television-based lessons, and in collaboration with other development partners, supported the production of the video lessons for preschool and school preparatory programmes, Tajik and Uzbek minority language subjects as well as extra-curricular areas for social pedagogues, class supervisors, and school psychologists.
- **Montenegro:** UNICEF's cooperation with the MoE was formalised to include capacity building of preschool teachers to support learning among Roma children.
- **North Macedonia:** UNICEF supported the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) in their work with schools to develop video lessons that will be uploaded on the EDUINO platform and be available to teachers. A training programme is being created aiming to enhance the capacities of teachers to use the various educational programmes for online teaching.
- **Serbia:** UNICEF supported the Institute for Improvement of Education (IIE) in adapting two nation-wide training programmes for 2,700 teachers and other education professionals to improve their competencies in outcome-based online teaching. An additional 5,000 teachers commenced online training on becoming digitally competent. With UNICEF supported the establishment of an online for ICT-based planning and teaching platform on the new [IIE National Education Portal](#) which serves 59 schools. To support the development of competencies of staff in preschool institutions UNICEF supported the MoE in producing [video training](#) which have attracted 12,821 views.
- **Tajikistan:** UNICEF has helped to develop the country's first national learning platform "Learning Passport" and "Maktab Mobile" which includes off-line SMS and mobile functionality, digitised textbooks and interactive learning feedback. The pilot is currently underway with selected urban and rural schools/teachers

Access to Child Protection and Preventing Violence: UNICEF deployed wide-ranging activities to protect children most vulnerable to the physical threats and psychological pressures resulting from the pandemic-related stresses. For example:

- **Albania:** UNICEF continued support for children and their parents in rural communities affected by the November 2019 earthquake, by providing access to psychosocial counselling and specialised mental health service. Both children and adults in these communities have been reached with hygiene and infection prevention awareness-raising.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNICEF, in partnership with Save the Children, provided around the clock on-site child protection support to 462 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in TRCs in Bira, Borići, Miral, Sedra and Usivak. UNICEF with its partner Médecins du Monde (MdM) provided quality psychosocial support to the unaccompanied children and children in families within four temporary reception centres in Una-Sana Canton. In one week, 41 children benefited from counselling related to self-acceptance, psychological resilience and participation.
- **Bulgaria:** UNICEF-supported Family Consultative Centre for Community Support in Shumen district reached 128 vulnerable families in three municipalities with information on COVID-19 safety and reached 57 people with hot meal every day.
- **Croatia:** To support parents' complaints surrounding hospital policy that limited parental contact with a hospitalised child for only 15 minutes caused protests, UNICEF provided the MoH with guidelines on safe contact during hospital visits.
- **Italy:** UNICEF continued supporting 150 volunteer guardians in Sicily, including delivering information on COVID-19 prevention and response and related information on access to services and legal support. UNICEF supported 18 mentors

to enhance their capacity through the mentorship programme “Refugees Welcome”. This included provision of guidance on COVID-19 prevention and response, as well as on how to manage the stress related to confinement. The foster-care programme, in partnership with Coordinamento Nazionale Comunita' Di Accoglienza (CNCA) also continued during the reporting period and focused on 11 young migrants and refugees placed in foster-family solutions.

- Georgia: UNICEF supported its NGO partner Children of Georgia, in providing online psychological support to 228 children and 155 caregivers in small group homes and foster care.
- Kazakhstan: As a result of UNICEF and OHCHR advocacy, the country’s National Preventive Mechanism continued to monitor more than 30 residential care institutions for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Kosovo*: UNICEF supported the Kosovo Disability Forum in providing psychosocial and educational support to children with disabilities and their parents through virtual meetings, reaching 1,885 individuals, including 977 children with disabilities. In partnership with the Organization for Children Without Parental Care (OFAP), UNICEF supported the provision of psychosocial support to 63 children placed in foster care and their foster care parent’s through face to face meetings and online platforms.
- Montenegro: With UNICEF support, the Association of Youth with Disabilities continued to provide psychosocial and legal support to children with disabilities and their families through an online [platform](#) which reached 23,169 people and an additional 63,495 via Facebook. 545 members of families with children with disabilities received psychosocial support, including 98 children. 163 persons with disabilities received legal aid concerning requests for legal advice.
- Serbia: 117 children in eight residential institutions benefited from UNICEF-supported online psychosocial support, joint learning and exchange through UNICEF-supported web chat groups. 19 children were provided with intensive individualised counselling. UNICEF enabled the provision of psychosocial support to refugee and migrant children and women, either in-person or via online channels. Activities to empower women and girls (via Viber and WhatsApp groups) resumed, and referral and support to case management in cases of child abuse or gender-based violence benefitted 1,266 refugee/migrant women and children.
- Turkey: With UNICEF support, 73 child protection centres throughout the country were re-opened with professional teams in child friendly spaces working on a rotational basis. UNICEF and partners continued to provide services to children and families at risk of child labour. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 980 individuals have been supported with remote case management, awareness raising, and counselling services through phone calls and messaging platforms delivered in multiple languages.
- Uzbekistan: As a result of UNICEF advocacy efforts, the Prime Minister issued an instruction on closure of specialised correctional institutions. The Prime Minister decided on release remaining children from the two specialised correctional educational institutions in Samarkand and Kokand into their extended families or another appropriate family-based alternative care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF’s focus on protecting children and women from abuse and gender-based violence (GBV) is reinforced by support to partners and resources that ensure the availability of psychological support. UNICEF is supporting national telephone helplines in Azerbaijan, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Romania, Ukraine (among others), which in some countries, are able to connect callers with legal aid, shelter and other protective services. Examples during the reporting period:

- Albania: UNICEF and the Municipality of Tirana launched the “BiblioTech” initiative as part of an online safety programme, which is equipping “digital corners” in public libraries to enhance children’s knowledge and skills to navigate the internet safely. The programme will also contribute to the expanding of “Friendly Wi-Fi” venues, protecting children and young people from illegal, child abuse and pornographic materials.
- Azerbaijan: UNICEF supported initiatives to help families and children cope with stress and mental health issues reached a diverse audience through social media and printed communication. Positive parenting messages were aimed at families affected by financial hardship, and/or who have children with disabilities, single-parent families, and families at risk of domestic violence. 44 children and 72 adults received psychological counselling via telephone, messaging, and VOIP.
- Belarus: UNICEF partnered with the Association of Barristers to ensure continuity of family legal procedures in the COVID-19 context. A new chatbot was launched, providing free legal aid consultations on family, criminal and administrative law.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: In collaboration with Republika Srpska (RS) Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), and in partnership with Association of Psychologists RS, UNICEF supported the launch of mental health and psychosocial support interventions to mitigate potential impacts of COVID-19 response. These included targeted support for social services professionals, parents (or other primary caregivers) and children.
- Bulgaria: UNICEF-supported Child Advocacy Centres for integrated services for prevention and response to violence provided psychosocial support, consultation and legal aid to 172 clients (including 91 children) during the reporting period.

- Georgia: UNICEF launched the “Parenting During Pandemic” project to help parents in dealing with COVID-19-related parenting stress, and to teach them about cyber risks and child protection.
- Italy: UNICEF supported the provision of case management, counselling and psychosocial support to migrant and refugee GBV survivors and individuals at risk. INTERSOS in Rome provided emergency shelter within private/commercial structures in a small scale to very vulnerable individuals. MdM continued to provide remote and in- person counseling and Psychological First Aid (PFA) to GBV survivors, and vulnerable migrant and refugee children. In partnership with Freeda, UNICEF continued to contribute to promote access to GBV services in five languages through Instagram.
- Kazakhstan: The country’s UNICEF-supported [website](#) on mental health counselling was visited 2,861 times by 1,826 users.
- North Macedonia: UNICEF supported cooperation with the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), in establishing and training mobile teams of social workers and lawyers to provide support for vulnerable families in Skopje, Prilep, Bitola and Shtip. The teams are improving the process of identifying children and families at risk of becoming victims of violence and taking preventive measures or referring them to appropriate services. The mobile teams are working closely with Roma health mediators and civil society organizations (CSOs).
- Serbia: During the reporting period, UNICEF conducted meetings of the Working Group for Protection of Refugee and Migrant Children, and supported service mapping in asylum and reception centres to ensure better coordination of referral pathways for protection services. COVID-19 related technical guidelines were disseminated to stakeholders who work with refugees and migrants on child protection and preventing GBV, and access to child protection and alternative care arrangements for the most vulnerable unaccompanied and separated refugee/migrant children is continually monitored.
- Ukraine: UNICEF supported psycho-social teams operating in Luhansk and Donetsk (NGCA) who continue providing consultation via phone, skype, and other social media channels to children and families living along the contact line in the East. In total, 316 beneficiaries, including 246 children and their caregivers received psycho-social counselling, information on positive parenting and had special sessions on COVID-19. 27 children without parental care were provided with essential protection services and psycho-social support.

UNICEF supported several efforts aimed at ensuring capacity and resources professionals and parents who the duty bearers in protecting children. This includes:

- Armenia: UNICEF supported the development of COVID-19 materials and guidance for social workers helping 100 parents providing emergency foster care to vulnerable children. A helpline was established to provide ongoing professional guidance, support and mentorship.
- Armenia: UNICEF supported training of 79 social workers from underserved communities of Syunik, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions, on providing COVID-19 psychosocial support to parents and children.
- Georgia: UNICEF facilitated trainings for the Youth Centre and local NGOs in Akhalkalaki to strengthen understanding and capacities of the local non-governmental actors in their roles in upholding and protecting the rights of the child in the context of COVID-19 and beyond, and identified possible ways to respond to these emerging needs in a culturally appropriate and evidence-based manner.
- Kazakhstan: UNICEF supported five-day case training on risk and case management for 20 specialists at the Centres of Adaptation of Minors (CAM) in Almaty and Shymkent, and the Centre for the Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations (CSC) in Nur Sultan on provision of protective services for children affected by migration. In partnership with the Child Protection Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), UNICEF-supported webinars aimed at strengthening practical skills of 34 specialists integrating case management tools to work with children in difficult life situation using best interests of the child and individual approach in the context of COVID-19.
- Serbia: A UNICEF-supported on-line platform for information/knowledge provided regular sessions, webinars and workshops for 601 students of social work and professionals working in centres for social work, foster care and adoption, residential institutions and CSOs.
- Ukraine: UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy and implementing partners conducted series of online webinars for social workers and child protection specialists on protection of children during the pandemic, prevention of institutionalisation of children, as well as on reintegration of children from institutional care back to their families and communities. More than 5,100 social workers and child protection professionals participated online, and 19,200 community professionals have viewed the recording. Moreover, 275 community professionals received training on the development of parental skills, including specific knowledge for parents with children with disabilities.

Social Protection: During the reporting period, in several countries (e.g., Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan), UNICEF collaborated with other UN agencies to finalise and launch consolidated socio-economic recovery and response plans, focusing on the most vulnerable groups. In such joint efforts of UN Country Teams (UNCT), UNICEF led or co-led inputs around child rights and social protection. Other complementary rapid assessments were initiated (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro). In line with these recovery plans, work is already underway to support these plans through the establishment or strengthening of humanitarian cash transfers (HCTs), improving existing social protection systems and services, and by introducing new social protection scheme and programmes. Highlights include:

- **Albania:** UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) in leading discussions on integrating cash transfers to the COVID19 response, and future emergencies. SOPs, which had been led by UNICEF, were presented to participants including: the National Civil Protection Agency, the National Agency of Local Government, municipalities, the EU delegation, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), UN agencies, and child rights. During the reporting period, UNICEF has been monitoring the roll-out of municipally managed HCTs in Korca and Shkodra to 550 families (half of the targeted households).
- **Armenia,** UNICEF is supporting Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in the design of a new shock-responsive social protection scheme that aims to assist families with children to move out of poverty in a gradual and targeted manner. During the reporting period, amendments to the laws on State Benefits and Social Assistance have been drafted, scenarios and calculations for rollout were prepared.
- **Georgia:** UNICEF, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Internally Displaced People (IDP) Health, Labour and Social Affairs, shared the findings of the study, "Impact of COVID-19 on Poverty in Georgia" and presented a microsimulation model for estimating the impact of COVID-19 on population and child poverty to NGOs and the media.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNICEF in partnership with the Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD) conducted a review of databases, e-platforms to assess the options for leveraging social protection mechanisms in response to COVID-19, and improve effectiveness in outreach, document lessons learnt and implement recommendations for social protection system to be more shock-responsive and better prepared for the potential scale up.
- **Serbia:** In cooperation with the Government's Social Inclusion Poverty Reduction Unit. UNICEF defined the basic criteria for allocation of HCTs to some 2,000 vulnerable single-headed households with children and to large families, who were previously rejected for Financial Social Assistance in south-east Serbia.
- **Tajikistan:** A new model for the HCT Programme (HCTP)/Tajikistan Emergency Social Protection Programme, was developed through UNICEF's technical support. The programme is currently being used by the World Bank within the framework of its COVID-19 Project, targeting 5,000 low-income families with children under the age of three enrolled in the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) system, who are eligible to receive a one-time cash transfer of SM 500 (\$50).
- **Turkey:** The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme for Refugee Children continued for 494,899 children in July. As well, in Şanlıurfa, a newly launched cash transfer programme provided social assistance to 472 Syruab and Turkish seasonal agricultural worker families who lost their income due to COVID-19.
- **Uzbekistan:** Through UNICEF advocacy efforts, the president signed a decree on additional financial support to vulnerable groups needing social protection during the pandemic". The decree envisages a one-off cash transfer of UZS 220,000 (\$22) per person, increasing some allowances by 10-12%, families) among others.

Next Sitrep: 2 October 2020

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Annex I: Summary of Selected Regional Programme Results (as of 26 August 2020)ⁱ

Areas of Response	2020 Target ⁱⁱ	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep	% Achieved
Risk Communication and Community Engagement				
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	193,370,000	178,037,156	▲ 1,060,205	92%
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,116,550	6,753,282	▲ 569,817	67%
Critical Supply and Logistics and WASH services				
Number of people reached with critical wash supplies (including hygiene items) and services	3,338,300	1,014,576	▲ 83,729	30%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	161,136	115,948	▲ 17,351	72%
Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services				
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities.	3,751,492	2,501,508	▲ 240,350	67%
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	1,329,050	1,576,837 ⁱⁱⁱ	▲ 6,762	119%
Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services				
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	42,381,092	24,836,084	▲ 291	59%
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	35,735	23,778	▲ 2,148	67%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	2,420,888	2,194,983	▲ 299,004	91%
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors	6,180	2,011	▲ 78	33%
Number of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counselling and/or parenting support*	1,327,000	777,477	▲ 29,648	59%
Number of teachers trained in delivering distance learning*	103,330	67,501	▲ 123	65%
Access to Social Protection Services				
Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19	14,800	2,837	▲ 398	19%
Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	393,841	199,382	▲ 24,444	51%

ⁱ This table presents programme indicators selected from the global Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) framework. Reported programme results have been extracted from the global HPM dashboard for the period ending 10 June. Additional Regional indicators to better report on the regional dynamics and nuances in the context of COVID-19 response are being considered.

ⁱⁱ In comparison to the previous reporting period, some of the indicator targets have changed owing to the adjustments and revisions made to account for the shifting contexts and needs, evolving programme priorities, and revised calculation methodologies.

ⁱⁱⁱ The result has been overachieved mainly due to the use of social media and online platforms, leading to a broader coverage than initially anticipated. The pro bono boost offered by various social media platforms has contributed to this higher level of achievement.