UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on:

1. Facilitating risk communication;
2. Provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers;
3. Mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education, child protection services, and advocating for continued access to social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

Humanitarian Strategy

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- Online discussions, based on guidelines from child psychologists, were initiated for parents with children aged 0-6 to address their
challenges during the pandemic. Over 30,000 parents were reached thus far.

- **A new initiative**, launched in partnership with Parents for Education, aims to provide best practices of parent-child communication in stressful environments, including COVID-19. During the first few days, the initiative has reached 24,000 people through Facebook.
- In partnership with the Administration of All Muslims of Georgia, Regional Media Association, and NCDC, UNICEF continued to share videos featuring Muslim religious leaders, animations, and social media posters on COVID-19 in the Azeri language, reaching up to 30,000 ethnic minority community members.
- Three regional TV channels aired 90 programmes on COVID-19, targeting ethnical minorities, and reached 1 million viewers with specific recommendations and safety guidelines.
- Seven regional TV channels broadcasted 28 news programmes on COVID-19-related topics as part of the RCCE strategy, which aims to support NCDC in reaching ethnic minority population with COVID-19 prevention messages through regional TV channels across Georgia. The project is implemented by the Journalism Resource Center, with USAID support.
- UNICEF published an article to guide parents on how to introduce the new regulations for the safer reopening of schools and the necessity of wearing masks to children.
- A video was released with UNICEF Representative addressing the growing concern of gambling among adolescents and youth during COVID-19.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 229,791 people and engaged 10,081 people on topics about COVID-19 through Facebook.

**Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- To strengthen IPC and hygiene in preschools and schools, UNICEF, in close coordination with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS), and other key stakeholders, defined the existing gaps and needs in WASH. The response plan has been prepared to ensure a safer learning environment.
- UNICEF, with financial support from USAID, is procuring hygiene supplies for schools across all regions of Georgia.
- UNICEF, in coordination with the MoESCS, WHO, and NCDC, prepared information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on COVID-19 in Georgian and ethnic minority languages for students, teachers, and non-teaching staff. The materials include IPC messages on handwashing, proper use of face masks, hand sanitation, physical distancing recommendations, etc.

**Adolescents/youth**

- During the reporting period, youth volunteers contributed more than 980 hours to peer learning, online training, workshops, film screening, organized activities for older people, making new friends, and breaking out of the cycle of social isolation and loneliness, and more.
- A total of 44 young volunteers attended the webinar – Civic Activism and Volunteerism, reaching 1,615 people.
- Visual materials and volunteers’ stories were disseminated through Facebook, reaching 20,914 people.
- A new group of 75 adolescents from various regions of Georgia were engaged in interactive zoom sessions by Kant’s Academy, covering the following topics: types of leadership, planning and implementing business companies, stress management, and relationships between parents and children.
- A total of 60 adolescents attended an online session conducted by an international speaker on Building Social Capital in The Post-COVID-19 Era.
- UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP), continues a series of online mental health webinars for adolescents and their parents, with 765 views.

**Child Protection**

- In partnership with the Parliament and State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” continues to provide assistance to children and their families, supporting 728 cases to date, of which 639 already received assistance and were closed accordingly.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF partner, Children of Georgia, provided online psychological support to 262 children and 174 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, in all regions of Georgia. During the
reporting period, the following topics were covered: distresses caused during and by COVID-19-related restrictions/isolation; emotional state of children; altered daily routine contributing anxiety; conflict management; violence; and challenging behavior.

- UNICEF and the Initiative for Social Change started a new project to provide support to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation for online mediation in criminal cases and enhance the capacity of social workers from the State Care Agency on social work in emergencies.

**Education**

- An agreement between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports (MoESCS) of Georgia, the Government of Estonia, and UNICEF Georgia was signed this week, which focuses on training elementary school teachers, school administrators, and educators from 100 schools in distance teaching and learning concepts and quality education practices.
- UNICEF, in close collaboration with NCDC, is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) in the safer reopening of schools, including the development of child-friendly posters on COVID-19 preventive measures for use in preschools and primary schools.
- With UNICEF support and in partnership with CK-12 Foundation, Education for All Coalition is translating and adapting interactive and online teaching and learning resources for students and teachers of Georgia.

**Social Policy**

- In partnership with the Government, UNICEF produced a microsimulation model for estimating the impact of COVID-19 on population and child poverty in Georgia, which suggests that cash transfers could halt the rise in poverty.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UKAid, and USAID.
The Code on the Rights of the Child of Georgia

1 September 2020 was marked as a day of tremendous achievement for children in Georgia as the Code on the Rights of the Child entered into force. The Code was adopted on 20 September 2019 at the initiative of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament, with technical assistance from UNICEF. It is an umbrella document covering all rights and freedoms of children and introduces child rights protection and implementation mechanisms. It provides legal guarantees for empowering children to independently exercise and protect their rights through child-friendly justice institutions and mechanisms.

The Code is based on the principle of giving the primary consideration to the best interest of the child with the family as the main determinant.

UNICEF Representative: “I would like to congratulate Georgia on this groundbreaking achievement, and we believe that the Code on the Rights of the Child will have a long-lasting effect on the lives of children in Georgia”.

Since the adoption of the Code, UNICEF worked with the Parliament of Georgia, Government agencies, municipalities, and the judiciary to support the preparation process of the Code’s entry into force. This support covered:

- Development of guidelines for inter-agency cooperation for child protection cases;
- Development of a training programme and training to more than 200 representatives of municipal authorities;
- Development of a concept on main principles and procedures for the implementation of provisions related to the separation of children from their families and placement in alternative care;
- Development of a training programme and training of 25 administrative judges on issues concerning separation of children from their families;
- Supporting the development of the commentary to the Code on the Rights of the Child, which will serve as the main document for the interpretation of various provisions and support the establishment of common understanding and practice.

UNICEF wishes to thank the EU Delegation to Georgia, USAID, and the Embassy of France for their support in the development and preparatory work, which contributed to the entry into force of the Code on the Rights of the Child.
Results to Date

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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Funding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
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<td>1,589,300</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
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<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>4,415,399</td>
<td>2,574,000</td>
<td>1,841,399</td>
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</table>

The next Situation Report will be issued on 18 September 2020

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