



15 – 30 April 2020

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Middle East & North Africa Region COVID-19

Situation Report No. 3

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for every child

Highlights

- The number of COVID-19 cases in the MENA region increased by 32 per cent increase in just one week.
- In Yemen, five new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Aden - three weeks after the only previous laboratory-confirmed case was detected in the Eastern governorate of Hadramout. This suggests that the virus could well be circulating undetected and is a major concern due to the fragile and overwhelmed health system along with weak Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) in health facilities. A sharp increase in cases (375) and deaths (28) was recorded in Sudan, with a high case fatality ratio (8.9%) suggesting potential under-reporting of cases. Of concern are also the first cases recorded in refugee camps in Djibouti, Lebanon, and State of Palestine.
- UNICEF reached nearly 100 million people with Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages on COVID-19 prevention. Specific material for the Holy Month of Ramadan were disseminated, including through TV in Libya and Iraq. In Lebanon, several religious leaders engaged directly in the messaging, while in the State of Palestine, a specific multi-media campaign reached 4 million people.
- 15 million children are at risk of missing measles and polio vaccinations due to postponement of campaigns, notably in Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen and Iraq. UNICEF is providing basic supplies and vaccines to resume or support continuity of immunization campaigns. Routine vaccinations continue across the region.
- UNICEF is actively promoting and supporting the scaling up of social protection schemes or incentive packages to support children at risk of dropping out of school when schools reopen. In Jordan, 35,000 households have received their allocation of a temporary cash transfer from the National Aid Fund (NAF), while in Morocco, 1.8 million households received humanitarian multi-sector cash grants to cover basic needs.

Situation in Numbers



162,966 COVID-19 cases.
92,584 (57%) in Iran



7,316 COVID-19 deaths
5,877 (80%) in Iran



100 million people reached with Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages on COVID-19 prevention.

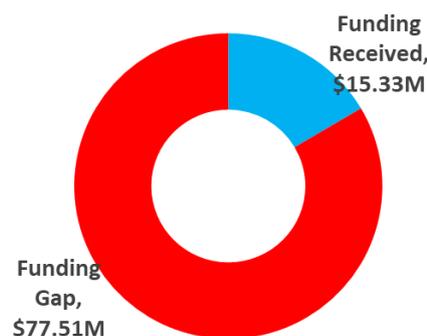


15 million children at risk of missing measles and polio vaccination campaigns.



US\$94.2 million funding requirement

Funding Status (US\$)



Funding Requirements (US\$)

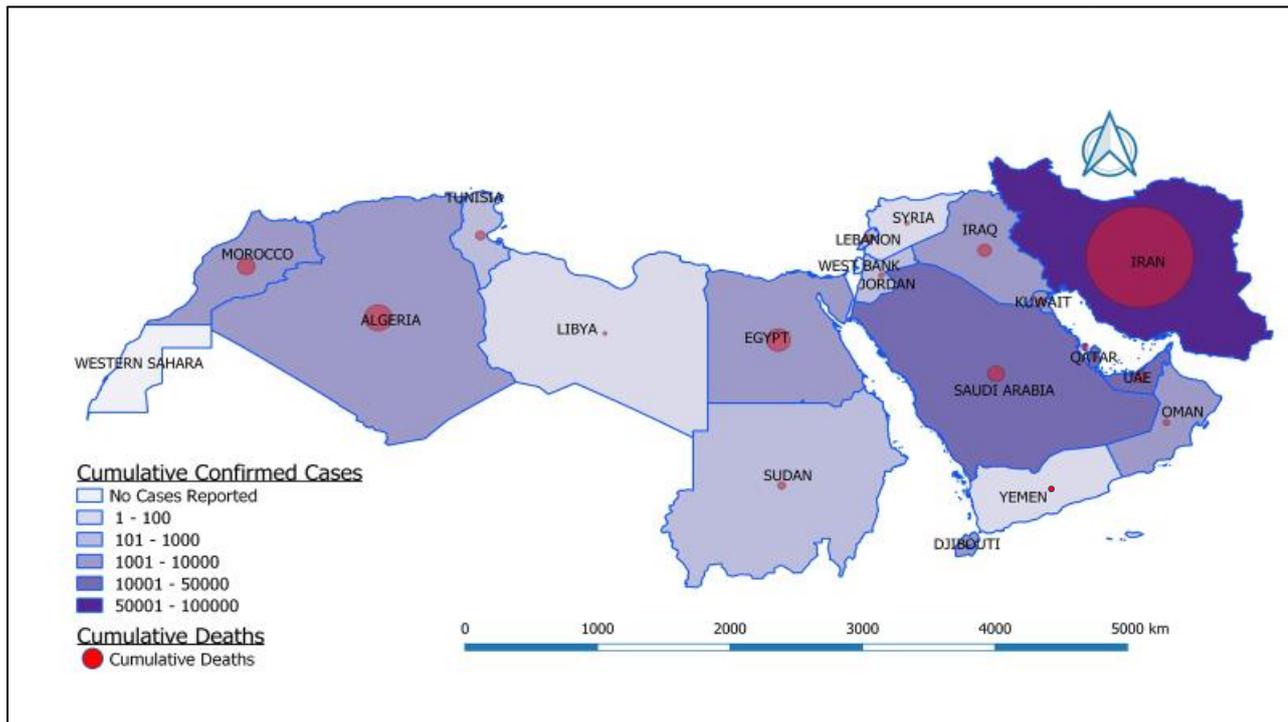
Situation Overview

As of 29 April, a total of 162,966 cases were reported in the MENA region (source: WHO), with a 32 per cent increase during the week of 20-26 April. A total number of deaths of 7,316 were recorded, representing a 3 per cent decrease in the number of new deaths in comparison with the previous week. Although Iran recorded a continuous decrease in cases for the third consecutive week, it continues to have the highest number in the region with more than 57 per cent of cases (92,584) and 80 per cent (5,877) of deaths. Iran remains the 8th most-affected country globally.

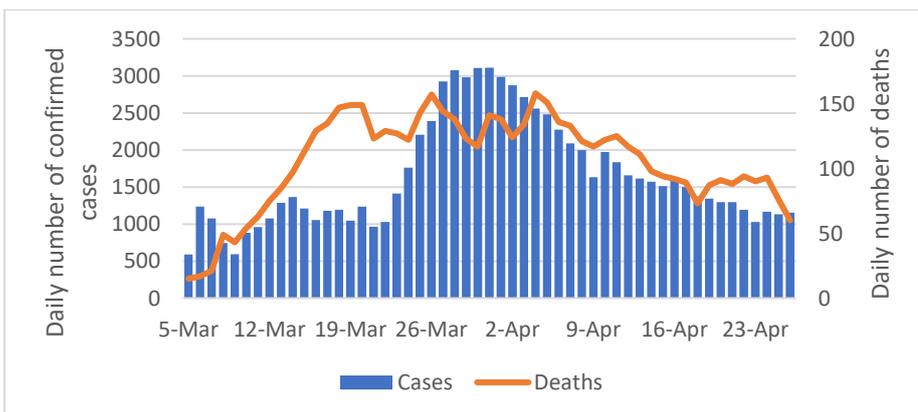
The reporting period was marked by the first cases of COVID-19 recorded in refugee camps in Djibouti, Lebanon, and State of Palestine (SOP). Meanwhile, five new cases were recorded in Aden, Yemen. Following an intense testing strategy, the largest increase in cases was recorded in the UAE (6.7%), Qatar (6.7%) and Saudi Arabia (11.4%); all three countries have reached more than 10,000 cases. While Bahrain, Kuwait and Egypt continue to record high number of cases and deaths, a sharp increase in cases (237) and deaths (21) was recorded in Sudan. The high case fatality ratio (8.9%) in Sudan suggests potential under-reporting of cases. In Syria, Libya and Yemen, the number of cases remain low but may be the result of the lack of access to testing.

In 12 other MENA countries, the direct impact of the measures taken by governments started to show positive results, with no increase in the absolute number of deaths recorded during the reporting period. Jordan, Lebanon and the State of Palestine (SOP) have all recorded good results, with less than 10 cases over the week 20-26 April, notwithstanding a good testing strategy.

Map: Accumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in the MENA region



In Iran, despite the declining trend of COVID-19 trajectory in most provinces, a resurgence in infection rates was observed in several provinces, including East and West Azerbaijan, Tehran, Khuzestan, Zanzan and Fars, allegedly due to easing of lockdown measures.



Daily number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and associated deaths in the Islamic Republic of Iran

In its April forecast on economic growth for 2020, the World Bank estimates a decline of GDP per capita of -3.6 per cent for the MENA region on average and a decline of around 20 per cent in the international remittances flow. UNICEF continues to monitor, assess, and respond to the impact of lockdown measures on regular functioning of social services, essential for child survival, development and well-being. While routine immunization continues across the region, campaigns for polio and measles continue to be affected, notably in Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen and Iraq where campaigns were postponed; nearly 15 million children are at a risk of missing measles and polio vaccinations. Prenatal care services are also negatively affected in many countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Libya, and Yemen, due to both reduction of services as well as demand.

The annual [Global Report on Food Crises 2020](#) released on 21 April by 16 international humanitarian and development partners, including UNICEF, highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic can lead to new food crises or worsening existing ones, especially in conflict affected countries, with expected major negative impacts on the quantity, frequency and diversity of food consumed by children. While Yemen remained the world's gravest food crisis in 2019, 20 per cent of the global number of people in crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) were in the Middle East region, notably Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Turkey, and in the State of Palestine, Iraq, and Syria. National lockdown measures are having a negative impact on supply and demand of nutrition services. For example, in Yemen, prepositioning supply and nutrition monitoring programmes have been disrupted and demand of nutrition services considerably declined.

Education institutions (from pre-schools to universities) in all 20 countries in MENA remain closed, impacting over 110 million children, adolescents and young people. This is on top of the 15 million children already out of school. In all countries, Ministries of Education have at least one online platform available that can allow continuity of learning at home. However, access is not always available, and 10 countries have an Internet penetration lower than 70 per cent. For some countries, including Sudan and Yemen, internet penetration is lower than 30 per cent. While overall reach might be potentially high, data on access and effectiveness of the multiple distance learning options is limited, mostly due to lack of data collection frameworks to guide national efforts. Meanwhile, there are deliberations at national levels in some countries on reopening of schools.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF's response in the Middle East and North Africa region has been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), as well as the UNICEF [Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#).

In coordination with Governments and partners and across the region, several UNICEF Country Offices continue to develop Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials and messages related to COVID-19 prevention and risk reduction practices, reaching 100 million people during the reporting period. For the Holy Month of Ramadan, specific RCCE COVID-19 prevention videos were produced and aired on national and local TV in Iraq and Libya. In Lebanon, several religious leaders engaged directly in the messaging and a UNICEF-WHO press release based on the global [Multi-Religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Initiative](#) was disseminated to the media and through digital platforms. In the State of Palestine, a multi-media campaign focused on safe practices during the Holy Month was launched, reaching nearly 4 million people.

UNICEF continues to assist governments by providing critical medical and WASH supplies (including Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene products) in 11 out of 20 countries in the region. In countries such as Djibouti, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, UNICEF is providing basic supplies and vaccines to resume immunization campaigns.

Some governments in the region are preparing for schools to reopen as soon as the public health imperative allows. In line with the framework for school reopening¹, UNICEF's response focuses on: 1) disinfecting schools and observing safe school protocols on hygiene and social spacing; 2) promoting inclusivity, including children most at risk of dropping out and who may require scaling up of social protection schemes or incentive packages (as part of the Back to School campaign); 3) adequate attention to catch-up modalities and classes. While all education facilities remain closed, UNICEF continues across the region to support teachers, students and parents to remain engaged with learning² and continues exploring the expansion of innovative approaches to reach the most vulnerable children.

During the reporting period, the release or process of releasing children from deprivation of liberty continued in 13 countries in the region – including Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the State of Palestine, Iran, Sudan and Jordan - with at least 1,780 children released since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENARO) is providing guidance to Country Offices to reinforce advocacy with Governments, including on emerging good practices at regional and global levels. Most Governments continue to apply a set of criteria guiding the release of children and often based on the gravity of offences. Against this background, some vulnerable children continue to be deprived from liberty. Meanwhile, UNICEF is adapting Child Protection service delivery models to better

¹ The framework was issued by UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, and WFP on 28 April 2020.

² This goes beyond following the national curriculum and stresses the importance to practice acquired skills through reading, writing and engaging in learning projects.

include gender-based violence (GBV) considerations, including remote or community-based models such as hotlines and community volunteers to support survivors accessing specialized services.

UNICEF continues to play a lead technical role in supporting the design and, increasingly, implementation of rapid social protection responses to COVID-19. Rapid analyses and surveys to better understand the evolving socio-economic impact on the most vulnerable people are being carried out, as well as technical support in the operationalization of cash transfer via national social protection systems. Millions of households living in poverty, IDPs, refugees and children with disabilities have benefitted from those cash transfers schemes. In Jordan, 35,000 households have received their allocation of a temporary cash transfer from the National Aid Fund. In Morocco, 1.8 million households received a humanitarian multi-sector cash grant to cover basic needs.

The availability of supplies and flight options continues to remain extremely challenging, including a significant increase in freight cost. Several UNICEF Country Offices have increased procurement of supplies locally also to support very fragile local economies. The Gavi Board allowed up to 10 per cent of health systems strengthening allocations to support Gavi eligible countries³ response, including for procurement of supplies. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, the total number of supplies shipped globally to UNICEF MENA Country Offices includes the following: 18,880 coveralls, 451,256 gloves, 369,950 face masks, 107,560 face mask N95, 8,608 disposable face shield, 33,800 plastic apron, and 440,600 surgical caps.

In each country where it has a presence, UNICEF has intensified its support to the COVID-19 response as follows:

Algeria

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, WHO and partners, approximately 2 million people were reached per day through national TV with messages on COVID-19 prevention and misinformation, and 7 million people through social media since 15 March (including protecting children from online exploitation).
- In partnership with the Algerian Muslim Scouts, UNICEF reached 10,000 people through a community-level prevention and hygiene campaign in the two most affected wilayas (territorial collectivities). All social media and videos developed by Scouts reached about 5.1 million persons, with a unique reach of more than 100 000 views for one video. The Ministry of Youth and the National Body for the Protection and Promotion of Children joined the partnership to further expand outreach.
- The UNICEF-launched youth online national competition, the Scouts and the Ministry of Youth and Sports on developing messaging and materials including the production of creative videos on how children and young people are experiencing the COVID-19 crisis is underway and has received 100 applications (53 Females, 47 Males).
- Guidelines on school health and hygiene practices for COVID 19 are being developed in Arabic and Spanish to support Sahrawi Refugee Education efforts.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health through the delivery of nearly 75,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment (including 50,000 masks) for health professionals.
- UNICEF continues to work on purchasing vaccines to reach 21,000 Sahrawi refugee children under the age of five to transport vaccines safely through the cold chain process while airports are closed.

Supporting access to education, Child Protection and GBV services

- After having provided IT servers to the Ministry of Education to support the expansion of distance/alternative learning through TV, online and radio, UNICEF's support is now focusing on the dissemination of content to the learning platforms. Since the launch of the e-learning programme, video courses on the National Office for Education and distant learning (ONEFD) YouTube channel have been viewed by millions of students. A new TV channel dedicated to education started to broadcast the courses to reach students who do not have access to the internet. UNICEF is also supporting the strengthening of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to better monitor out-of-school children and plan for catch-up programmes.
- In response to school closure in refugee camps in Tindouf, UNICEF has provided IT equipment (computers, hard drives) to support the education cluster in the production and broadcast of e-learning activities, with a target of 30,597 school-aged refugee children.

Djibouti

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF reached more than 26,000 people and engaged 7,914 through intensified mass media and social media messaging (Facebook, twitter, Instagram), in support to the Government-led RCCE mechanisms. On-going partnerships with local NGOs have helped to reach additional 3,119 people through handwashing with

³ In MENA it includes Djibouti, Syria and Yemen.

soap campaign in the suburbs of Djibouti ville (The capital city). New messaging and material on child protection, mother and child health are being developed. UNICEF and UNDP have initiated a partnership to engage youth on COVID-19 prevention.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF is setting up WASH services (water supply and sanitation infrastructures) in government-led quarantine sites for migrants and land travellers, mostly those returning from the Gulf States – the first quarantine site set up is in Ali Sabieh region with a capacity to host 600 migrants, and two more sites will follow in Tadjourah and Obock.
- Handwashing stations are being expanded in the most vulnerable areas of Djibouti city and five regional cities (Dikhil, Ali Sabieh, Arta, Tadjourah, Obock).

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF is securing critical supplies (vaccines, nutrition commodities, essential medicines) to support the continuity of the nationwide Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and Nutrition Programmes, while also disseminating breastfeeding recommendations in the context of COVID-19.
- Discussions between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and key health sector partners were held to identify COVID-19 response critical supply gaps. Due to efforts focused on containing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government may not be able to contribute the USD 58,700 co-financing share for the procurement of Gavi-supported vaccines. In addition, USD 120,000 is still required to provide the adequate supply of vaccines in the country. UNICEF allocated USD 50,000 from its regular resources to secure vaccines stock enough for six months.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF continues to provide technical support to the Government in developing a comprehensive national alternative learning programme for the most vulnerable and for people without access to the media or digital resources.
- **Social Protection and Public Finance:** UNICEF's contribution to the social protection safety net for the most vulnerable households (voucher system) reached 590 households; the target will be increased to reach up to 5,000 households.

Egypt

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF rolled out a COVID-19 campaign on hygiene and health, social isolation, physical distancing and combatting misinformation and stigma, reaching 16.7 million people and engaging 700,000 people (at the first phase). A video with UNICEF's national ambassador, actress Mona Zaki in support of health workers was launched on social media, reaching 700,000 users so far.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) in raising awareness and fostering accountability to affected populations through posts and in responding to community queries on social media. Three live streams were organised to address specific concerns of pregnant women and mothers of children below the age of one year. To date, 104,425 people were reached and 14,471 engaged.
- UNICEF is raising awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on girls and boys using human interest stories. During the reporting period, 6,582 adolescent girls and boys were reached and 1,109 engaged through the National Girls' Empowerment Initiative "Dawwie" Facebook Page.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health through providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for 3,000 health workers nationwide.
- In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF provided 12,000 litres of chlorine, to support the regular supply of disinfectants for 800 primary health care centres, serving nearly 640,000 people.
- UNICEF provided personal hygiene kits and disinfectant supplies (masks, bedsheets, soaps, Clorox/Dettol material) to 46 home care institutions for children accommodating 2,012 children in Cairo.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UN agencies, under the leadership of WHO, developed a costed action plan to support the continuation of essential health services in Egypt. UNICEF is prioritizing its support to essential maternal and child health services.
- Based on the findings of a UNICEF rapid assessment of WASH in primary health care facilities, an improvement plan was presented to WHO, the World Bank and the MoPH. Rehabilitation of WASH services in selected Primary Health care facilities are being initiated.
- The WHO/UNICEF guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) was disseminated to health service providers at primary health care facilities, and through social media. 69,000 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received IYCF in the context of COVID-19 messages through social media and community platforms.

- Over 80,000 women and children received critical health services, including antenatal care, neonatal care, postnatal care, immunization and growth monitoring, with UNICEF’s support.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF launched a video summarizing the youth skills development programme (Meshwary) on how to save household money. This Youth Challenge responds to the existing negative economic and livelihood impacts of COVID-19 outbreak and teaches young people to manage their finance better during the crisis. The video will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Youth & Sports.
- With UNICEF’s support, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) provided case management and assistance to 49 children. In addition, the MoSS case management unit conducted 700 follow-up calls in five targeted governorates (Alexandria, Assiut, Sharqiyah, Ismailia, and North Sinai).
- UNICEF and partners finalized a capacity-building plan on remote case management and psychological first aid to train 100 Child Helpline agents, counsellors and NGO social workers/counsellors. In addition, the Child Helpline was provided with hygiene kits, supplementing ICT materials (laptops) that they were previously provided to support remote operations.
- Due to challenges in children’s admission to care institutions due to COVID-19, UNICEF and its partner, the ‘Egyptian Association for Societal Consolidation’ increase their capacity to accommodate more children in need of care and protection. A total of 159 children have been provided with specialized services in Cairo, and 25 in Alexandria.
- 1,188 children on the move continued to be reached through case management and psychosocial support. A total of 47 households affected by COVID-19 have also received multisectoral cash grants to allow them to tend to their basic needs. In addition, 77,720 children and community members were reached through messaging on prevention and response on COVID-19.

Gulf Area (Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- **UNICEF GAO in the UAE** facilitated dialogue with the Emirate of Sharjah (Sharjah Child Friendly Office) and all social sector entities to review the impact of COVID-19 on services for children in key sectors including health, education, child protection, and children with disabilities. The dialogue focused on recent milestones such as the distribution of 5,000 tablets for children and the use of drive through services for vaccination and routine healthcare. Based on this, UNICEF is preparing to support partners on social media campaigns for addressing child protection concerns as well as the return to school, with focus on psychosocial support.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- 34 child protection specialists were sworn in, after having received a technical training from **UNICEF GAO in UAE**, to help establish the child protection unit in the Ministry of Education. This new cadre of service providers is a result of the Child Rights Law which mandated a strengthening of child protection services across sectors. The specialists will help prevent and address child protection concerns while children learn remotely and will eventually assist with a transition to school.
- **UNICEF GAO in Qatar** and UNESCO have collaborated with Education Above All, a Qatar-based global organization. This collaboration on content and technical support is to populate two recently-launched learning platforms, focusing on children who are digitally isolated and to provide additional support to children with e-learning access. These platforms also offer off-line educational projects.
- The Office in Qatar contributed to a two-day virtual seminar hosted by the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) and Salzburg Global Seminar, “Education Disrupted, Education Reimagined: A Virtual Convening”. The event was attended by 1,200 participants from over 98 countries and reviewed how COVID-19 was impacting education systems and shared innovations and lessons learned.
- The Office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia facilitated a webinar between the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center’s Health Department and UNICEF Health teams globally and regionally. The webinar covered UNICEF’s multi-sector response to COVID-19 with a specific focus on health.

Iran

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF and partners are increasing the focus and scale of messaging to adolescents, youth and their families related to social spacing, access to platforms to voice concerns and psycho-social support and prevention messaging. New contextualized COVID-19 messages and materials and an online child participation campaign are being developed.
- During the reporting period, 1.7 million people were reached through multimedia posts and infographics on UNICEF’s social media channels, including Instagram, Twitter, and the UNICEF country website. In addition, a set of informative material in Farsi were shared on UNICEF’s website for online supporters, and a COVID-19 Tab is established on the website for dissemination of global guidelines as well as updates on UNICEF response to COVID-19.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF started supporting the Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare (MCLSW) and its subsidiary State Welfare Organization (SWO) to address the needs of 13,800 children working on the streets, 8,088 children living with disability and 10,006 children without caregivers in nurseries and child care centres throughout the country, with offshore and local procurement of basic supplies and medical equipment. UNICEF Iran is supporting the procurement of supplies for organizations supporting prisoners to address the needs of 1,108 juveniles living in detention and rehabilitation centers and 197 children whose mothers are in prison.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF Iran shared a translated version of the 'Key messages and actions for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention and control in schools', with the Ministry of Education (MOE).
 - UNICEF and partners are developing three support packages for vulnerable children and adolescents. The first consists of remote psychosocial counselling with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The second, in cooperation with MoH and the State Welfare Organisation (SWO), is aimed at children in foster care, including parenting support and distribution of toys and hygiene items. The third is for adolescents in correction centres and incarcerated mothers in women prisons; it comprises psychosocial support and IPC.
 - UNICEF is supporting the SWO to reach more than 50,000 children living with disabilities in rehabilitation centers across the country as well as children without adequate family care living in childcare development centres. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for online service provision and awareness raising for children living with disability in State Welfare Organization rehabilitation centres was developed.
- [Social Policy and Social Financing](#)
- UNICEF provided technical support to increase the efficiency and targeting of the social protection system (single registry) and to strengthen and expand shock responsive social protection systems, in partnership with IPC.

Iraq

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Six million users across the country, and 3 million users in the Kurdistan Region received mobile messaging on COVID-19 prevention through partnerships with cell phone operators. 120,000 IDPs/Refugees in camps were reached through UNICEF messaging and material disseminated by implementing partners.
- New messaging and material on addressing anxiety, domestic violence, safe practices during the Holy Month of Ramadan, and highlighting efforts around routine immunization have been developed and a new promotional video broadcast through the Ministry of Education TV reached 335,000 views. The Ministry of Health and Environment in cooperation with UNICEF reached more than 7 million people through the development and broadcast of seven videos and the placement of material in public spaces and basic services locations.
- Social mobilization has been scaled up in areas with a high caseload through training and mobile outreach by 100 health promoters in Najaf and Baghdad. In addition, 20 youth groups across Basra, Najaf and Baghdad were mobilized for awareness raising activities, and 244 young people have been trained to lead peer-to-peer education and support Directorates of Youth in north, centre and south to fight misinformation and promote control measures. These partners and youth networks are engaging with the Voices of Youth platform on COVID-19 to express their opinions through blogs. A COVID-19 Information chatbot was launched on Facebook Messenger and Viber.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- Disinfection campaigns in juvenile detention centres, orphanages and elderly care centres were carried out in Najaf, Thi-Qar. UNICEF provided 4,000 sets of PPEs to 35 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) in IDP and Refugee Camps, including 37,000 Masks and Gloves.
- UNICEF in close cooperation with the line ministries, conducted a sterilizing campaign in Amiraiyat Al Fallujah and Habaniyah 21 camps, 55 public areas in Anbar governorate aiming to reach 21,000 individuals (9,870 children); and in Ninawa about 750,000 people were reached; in Sulmanya directorate in two IDP camps 11,000 (1,170 children) were reached.
- UNICEF supported the line Ministries in conducting a mass disinfection campaign and hygiene promotion in hot spot areas like markets and reaching an estimated 100,000 (including 47,000 children) of the most vulnerable populations.
- UNICEF installed and provided 45 handwashing facilities with soap at Primary Health Care Centres in Basra, Baghdad city and Ninawa and Anbar camps.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF and WHO issued a joint press release voicing concern about vaccination coverage in Iraq. Disruption of campaigns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the coverage of vaccinations against Polio and Measles by almost 20 per cent, leaving nearly 400,000 the most vulnerable children unvaccinated.
- UNICEF provided pregnant women with COVID-19 with all safety precaution and support to continue breastfeeding.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- Child Protection partners supported 3,320 children (1,605 boys/1,715 girls), and 5,496 adults with Psychosocial support across Iraq, and reached nearly 7,000 community members including 4,500 children (3,000 boys/1,500 girls) and 2,500 adults (1,600 male/900 female) with awareness messages focused on personal protective measures, coping mechanisms and overcoming stress using adopted remote modalities for delivery of messages.
- Following UNICEF's advocacy with the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Reformatory, a total of 149 children were released from pre-trial and post-trial detention since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic. 19 children were released during the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, 163 women and girls including survivors of Gender Based Violence received support through remote Gender Based Violence (GBV) case management services. 425 children at risk (203 Girls, 222 Boys) benefitted from case management support by social workers, either through remote support or individual visits.

Social Protection and Public Finance:

- The Government started the emergency cash transfer provided by Ministry of Planning (MoP) to 2 million households. So far, 200,000 are registered. UNICEF supported the MoP on the design of the scheme, determining eligibility and vulnerability criteria, to ensure the most vulnerable and affected by the crisis (daily wage workers, IDPs, large households with children) are covered.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Dohuk to implement awareness raising on prevention of COVID-19 benefiting Persons with Disability. A total of 1,420 families (31,264 people with disabilities, 3,665 children).

Jordan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The national RCCE Taskforce transitioned to phase II of the national campaign, with a focus on social norms, behavioural change, as well as engagement of children, youth, and families. More than 1 million people are reached through social media platforms and more than 200,000 through government platforms on a weekly basis. The WhatsApp messaging network provides active engagement for up to 8,000 users, with secondary outreach to approximately 3.5 million people. The content is shared via 116 social media influencers on a weekly basis, with up to 200,000 views per story, and is systematically broadcast through cooperation with 56 local organisations and 155 social media pages.
- A new campaign was launched for specific audiences through "Bedouin Poems," to foster solidarity, and engage communities through developing their own content. UNICEF launched a youth digital engagement campaign called Ma3akom ('With You') and in partnership with LoveJo, the Crown Prince Foundation, the Ministry of Youth (MOY) and Nahno partners, to engage adolescents and youth in meaningful, interactive, and fun activities during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF procured 10,000 face shields and 10,000 goggles which will be delivered to Ministry of Health (MoH) following customs clearance.
- With the support of UNICEF, 7,500 protective face masks, 9,400 gloves, and 14,000 PPEs were procured by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) for more than 1,200 frontline workers in the sector to ensure safe and uninterrupted operations in water and wastewater facilities.
- In Azraq, King Abdullah Park (KAP), Emarati Jordanian Camp (EJC) and Za'atari refugee camps, trainings were provided to over 60 incentive-based volunteers for the disinfection of incoming vehicles and WASH blocks, ensuring IPC measures are strictly implemented for over 113,000 Syrian refugees in camps. Over 2,000 vehicles were disinfected within one week and will be disinfected on an ongoing basis, as well as disinfection of WASH blocks continues daily.
- UNICEF supports the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) in the provision of safe water to communities affected by interrupted water supply through water trucking, reaching an almost 2,500 individuals in the middle and northern governorates. UNICEF is initiating additional support to the Ministry in performing urgent maintenance repairs to the water network, to ensure continuity of water supply to vulnerable communities by deploying rapid response technical maintenance teams in priority governorates.
- Eight communal WASH units and six single units were rehabilitated and prepositioned for deployment in the Za'atari refugee camp should the infection spread. Four WASH units and water supply were also installed in the new quarantine area established this week in Azraq camp to receive refugees returning from high-risk areas within the Kingdom.
- Distribution of family hygiene kits was implemented, aiming to reach 47 Informal Tented Sites in Mafraq, Madaba, Irbid, and Amman, reaching 1,233 families (5,643 people including 2,531 females). Also, 1,612 individuals living in 16 ITSs in Mafraq were provided with soap bars and hand sanitizers.
- Following the initial distribution of soap in Za'atari camp, UNICEF supported the distribution of additional soap bars with an additional 10,358 soap bars handed out to 1,308 families. Also, 5,300 cleaning kits will be distributed in Za'atari camp during the coming reporting period.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- With UNICEF and UN engagement, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reviewed and drafted the National COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan 2020. The next version will be reviewed and issued on 15 May.
- UNICEF is supporting MoH with the design of a COVID-19 Epidemiological Model to provide data analysis and inform response under three different scenarios associated with timeline and different government interventions to control the pandemic. The design of the model is expected to be drafted during the coming reporting period.
- UNICEF is coordinating with MOH to support children's immunization plans during COVID-19, starting which kicked off on 24 April. UNICEF will support national awareness-raising activities and vaccination efforts in Informal Tented Sites (ITSS) through mobile vaccination teams.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- A total of 2,861 adolescent boys and girls are continuing accredited non-formal education through distance learning, with facilitators using WhatsApp to connect with students. Trainings on the use of distance learning methods and quality assurance of online training material are conducted by UNICEF partners in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE).
 - Starting on 22 April, UNICEF and its implementing partner began disseminating online learning videos on the topics of civic and social skills to 42 MoE field coordinators and 3,000 teachers. These videos support the continuation of "Nashatati", a co-curricular programme that aims to develop life skills, improve social cohesion and improve psycho-social wellbeing of children and youth. The tool is designed that following each video, reflection questions are discussed by students and teachers in WhatsApp groups. UNICEF is working to launch an online version of Nashatati in May.
 - UNICEF, donors, NGOs and other agencies have provided technical assistance to MoE in developing and reviewing the Education During Emergency Plan.
 - The MoE started the first e-assessment tests on 18 April for Jordanian and non-Jordanian students for Grades 4-12 including Tawjih (final secondary school) exams. The exams are conducted on the Darsak online platform (www.darsak.gov.jo) supported by UNICEF.
 - In cooperation with the International Medical Corps (IMC), selected Makani child protection staff were trained to act as Para Case Workers to provide follow-up child protection case management support within their catchment areas through phone-calls, home visits, and provision of child protection support, as needed. Additionally, 75 Makani child protection facilitators and coordinators were trained on Psychological First Aid to teach deliver management techniques and referrals to specialized case management services, if needed. Makani centres referred 25 protection cases to specialized agencies during April.
 - A total of 13,338 children, parents and primary caregivers were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support. Through Makani centres, UNICEF and its partners provided community-based child protection services to 658 parents and children. The Jordan River Foundation (JRF) helpline supported 704 children and caregivers (59 per cent female, 20 per cent children), and the IMC provided specialized case management services for 976 children (53 per cent female).
 - UNICEF provided protective gear to the Family Protection Department and Jordan Police Department to ensure the continuity of their services. During the first three weeks of operation, 76 per cent of the 704 calls received by the JRF helpline were related to COVID-19 health concerns and difficulties in securing basic needs; 12 per cent were related to parenting and family issues, and 12 per cent were about protection and legal cases.
 - UNICEF is supporting the MOE in developing 12 videos covering six themes to address prominent mental health and psychosocial concerns for students undergoing distance learning while in quarantine. Each theme will have three activities designed for different age groups, followed by messages for children and parents.
- Social Policy and Social Financing**
- UNICEF has actively supported the process of rolling out temporary cash transfers to most affected groups via the National Aid Fund (NAF). To date, 35 per cent of the first group of 100,000 targeted households have received their allocation of a six-month temporary cash transfer financed by the World Bank.

Lebanon

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- A UNICEF-led RCCE plan with the Ministry of Information, WHO and UNDP was launched on 22 April to counter misinformation. The press conference was covered by 40 media outlets, including live broadcast on six national TV channels. Additionally, 845,000 people were reached through UNICEF Lebanon Facebook.
- Key messages and guidance for preventing COVID-19 transmission during Ramadan were finalized and widely shared. Religious leaders engaged in messaging. A UNICEF-WHO press release based on the global Multi-Religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Initiative was disseminated to the media and through digital platforms.
- UNICEF in cooperation with ILO and partners working for people with disabilities supported the development of guidelines to ensure disability sensitive COVID-19 response. Sign language videos have been produced and disseminated through social media and 20 partners. In addition, UNICEF in coordination with the Disaster Risk Management Unit supported the Ministry of Interior to develop municipality-specific guidelines for people with disabilities in quarantine centres.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF delivered door-to-door sessions on good behaviour, to reduce the risk of COVID contamination, supported by the delivery of soap to 180,000 out of 330,000 Syrian refugees living in Informal Settlements (ISs) and collective shelters (CSs). This initiative was completed by the Sector under UNICEF coordination to ensure full coverage of ISs and CSs.
- 580 healthcare workers in 193 PHCs have been equipped with PPEs.
- UNICEF conducted a mapping to match the location of 42 isolation centres across the country with UNICEF high and medium priority municipalities and areas most affected by COVID-19. The mapping aims at prioritizing support pending clearance from the syndicate of nurses and potential needs to be evaluated.
- In cooperation with the Inter Agency and Rapid Response Task Force in the North and Akkar, UNICEF supported the construction of WASH facilities in the Tal Hayat Isolation Centre, to accommodate in separate quarters suspected and confirmed mild cases from overcrowded areas. Excavation and system installation for the suspected cases areas was completed, including wastewater system, six latrines, showers and changing rooms. Showers and changing room units for the staff in the management building, as well as nine water tanks (2,000 L) have also been installed.
- In response to the confirmation of five COVID-19 cases in the Palestinian Al Jalil refugee camp, UNICEF constructed a sterilization gate, provided two IPC kits for the affected families, and distributed 300 masks, 5,000 bars of soap, 750 bleach bottles and 700 food kits to families. The masks and the food kits were produced as part of UNICEF supported youth-led initiatives that provide economic opportunities.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Information, Education and Communication materials (posters, flyers and videos) on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 aimed at pregnant and lactating mothers and women of reproductive age were developed in cooperation with UNFPA, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health. These were widely disseminated through social media and 40 key SRH stakeholders, reaching over 6,000 people.
- Forty nurses, doctors and paramedics working at the five land border points were trained on COVID-19 surveillance, detection of cases and IPC, and 135 General Security Officers were trained on COVID-19 awareness and prevention.
- Despite the suspension of the measles campaign, UNICEF and partners continue to reach children with routine immunization aiming at reaching 50,000 children monthly. Additionally, the Government has provided UNICEF-supported PPEs to frontline health workers in 182 PHC centers and at border vaccination points.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- Youth community initiatives have produced and distributed 3,000 masks and 1,700 hot meals to support poor families affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The Generation of Innovation Leaders (GIL) programme has adapted the existing curricula to be delivered online through YouTube, WhatsApp and other platforms. The GIL programme has been training facilitators on the new methodology, and in turn, the facilitators have successfully conducted pilot courses with over 160 youth in the past weeks.
- UNICEF has trained 50 counsellors from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) on psychological first aid to provide remote support to caregivers and children who are participating in online learning.
- UNICEF has trained 162 case workers on special considerations on separation of children during isolation, quarantine or hospitalization due to COVID-19, and 380 frontline workers have participated in an online training on how to provide remote psychosocial support.
- As part of the inclusive education pilot programme, special educators in 30 schools are supporting other teachers in conducting online classes. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoHE), UNICEF has developed a guidance for specialists to continue activities and services for children with special needs.

Social Policy and Public Finance:

- A two-pager advocacy brief to respond to deepening economic and social crisis exacerbated by COVID-19 was produced in cooperation with other UN agencies and key partners and widely disseminated. The Deputy Prime Minister is utilising the content to shape the Government of Lebanon's response to the crisis.
- UNICEF supported the Government with a technical note (with World Food Programme and International Labour Organization) on the emergency social cash assistance provided by the Government and support to technical design. Ongoing work with the World Bank to support the design of a longer-term new national social assistance programme (new National Poverty Targeting Programme, NPTP), to include reaching vulnerable categories, including support to design of provision of social welfare services component.

Libya

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF reached 340,210 Facebook and Instagram users through social media posts, with an additional leveraged reach of 354,406 users through Twitter posts on COVID-19.

- UNICEF developed new messaging and material on cyberbullying and online safety. The material was shared with partners. Awareness videos and key messages for the Holy Month of Ramadan have been disseminated in coordination with the NCDC. UNICEF also stepped up its engagement with the National TV and Radio in Libya. UNICEF COVID19 audio and video spots were aired frequently on local channels, reaching nearly 6.7 million people (40 per cent of the population of Libya).
- UNICEF supported the establishment of 10 billboards to promote the national helpline on COVID-19 in Tripoli. Nearly 3,500 individuals have called the helpline.
- UNICEF produced and disseminated 2,400 orientation material on PPE and patient interaction for 40 health facilities through the Ministry of Health.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF and its partners provided PPE, disinfectant and female hygiene materials to 924 IDPs in and Al Hasan/Hussain Quranic school in Tripoli. To date, 1,702 people benefited from these critical medical and WASH supplies. More assistance is in the pipeline.
- UNICEF sponsored the IPC training for 15 IPC focal points from health facilities in Tripoli for the implementation of the standard IPC guidelines to protect health care workers and patients visiting health facilities.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF distributed 10 sets of lifesaving and essential supplies and medicines to serve about 100,000 people for three months to different hospitals for the availability of the emergency and PHC services. The main municipalities include Tripoli, Zwara, Sorman, Gherian, Zletin and Alkhomis.
- UNICEF prepositioned 34 sets of lifesaving and essential supplies and medicines, which will be mobilized according to needs and requests by the MOH.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF has developed an education response plan agreed by both Ministries of Education in Tripoli and Benghazi for UNICEF to support its components on: Provision of distance education (TV and online) to reach nearly half a million children; including distance teaching material for 110 teachers, awareness messages on importance of continued learning targeting 500,000 children and parents.
- 211 (156 women, 55 men) members of community, including young girls, women, parents and caregivers have been reached with awareness sessions on Child protection key messages, better parenting sessions and GBV prevention messages.
- National partners activated 11 help lines to support outreach for help and provided MHPSS services. 710 calls have been received and support was provided.
- A total of 640 boys and girls have been reached with specialized services including case management and MHPSS using online tools.
- UNICEF child protection partners set up online groups (WhatsApp) to keep contact and information flow among affected people and reduce isolation.
- UNICEF convened the UN Agencies (UNDP, WFP and UNHCR) and the World Bank to formalize a coordinated approach to support a national shock-responsive social protection system.

Morocco

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Nearly half a million people have been reached with messaging around COVID19 prevention and access to services through UNICEF Morocco social media channels. This includes 219,256 adolescents and youth reached through a youth engagement initiative launched during the reporting period through the mobilization of 15 youth organisations and civil society partners. Using social media and the Voices of Youth platform, the initiative aims to improve the knowledge of young people, strengthen their participation and commitment to the COVID-19 response, including mitigation of the impacts of confinement.
- 124 migrant families with 189 children were reached through a UNICEF supported hotline to provide accurate information on COVID-19 prevention and positive parenting, address concerns, and respond to feedback. 200 calls were received in the reporting period.
- High-level advocacy was initiated with the Parliament and Government for release of children in detention in view of the COVID-19 outbreaks.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- On 15 April with UNICEF and partners' technical support and advocacy, the Ministry of Health published a ministerial circular on the continuity of health care services for women and children in the context of COVID-19. Addressed to regional and central Health Ministry directors, the circular outlines directives on the adaptation of primary health care to respond to COVID-19 epidemic and to protect essential services; continuity of care, particularly for maternal and child health at facility level; assurance of access to care in remote and hard to reach areas with the support of local authorities and contingency planning.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in producing pre-primary and primary education lessons for TV and distance learning platforms. The lessons focus on parental education, Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE), handwashing, hygiene awareness and psychological support for adolescents in second-chance school.
- Supporting the Ministry of Education to facilitate more access to e-learning platforms, UNICEF is procuring tablets for children with disabilities, vulnerable children and adolescents in rural areas.
- More than 500 vulnerable children and social workers, specifically street children, children in alternative care, in conflict with law and children on the move, received remote psychosocial support, including through digital platforms, thanks to UNICEF's partnership with Mohammed V University and NGOs.
- UNICEF provided foodstuffs to 40 former children living on the street in Agadir who are currently hosted in emergency centres set up by the authorities and, in Taroudant, to 55 children and their families at risk of family separation, including foster care families, and to 50 former children living on the street and their families, to facilitate reunification.
- 101 migrant families and 183 children on the move received foodstuffs in Tangiers. 27 children on the move received complete and integrated alternative care support through the "pilot centres" in Oujda and Tetouan; 81 children on the move benefited from individual follow up provided by psychologists and/ or social workers and distance learning was provided to 69 migrant children.

Social Policy and Public Finance

- Phase 1 of the rollout of a temporary cash transfer by the Government to RAMEL (subsidized health insurance) affected groups who are in the informal sector and who have lost their work or face a considerable loss of their income, started on 6 April and is expected to cover approximately 2.7 million households (including at least 2 million of children). By 8 April, 600,000 households had already received the cash transfer (updated data on the number of affected groups is expected by end of April or Mid-May). UNICEF's advocacy and technical support (in terms of coverage, costing, enrolment, grievance redressal etc) contributed significantly to the programme's design and implementation.
- Phase 2 of the temporary Government cash transfer programme was launched on April 10, aiming to reach citizens who lost their jobs in the informal sector but do not benefit from RAMEL – this is expected to benefit around 1.5 million households and 3.9 million affected groups with at least 1.7 million of children. The transfer process started on 23 April for a period of 10 days.
- In April, the High Commission for Planning (National Institute of Statistics) with the technical support of the World Bank and UNICEF, launched a phone survey on the socio-economic impact – including on children – of COVID19 and social and personal behaviours to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. The results of the first round (covering a sample of 2,544 households) are expected in early May.

Oman

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF supported the inter-ministerial RCCE committee in developing its COVID-19 RCCE strategy focusing on expatriate workers (1,672,207 people or nearly half of the total population) that includes response and messaging for workers and employers. Community leaders, foreign community clubs, embassy representatives, and medical professionals trusted by expatriate workers have been mobilised to produce and disseminate material and conduct inter-personal communication.
- In addition, UNICEF is amplifying RCCE committee messages for the public through social media, radio and TV; and involving social media influencers and the private sector to increase the appeal and reach of messages, and to address the spread of misinformation. From 13-27 April, messages reached over 17,000 people through social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn) and partner amplifications.

The State of Palestine

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF, in partnership with Gaza Sky Geeks, UNFPA and other corporate and government partners, conducted the first virtual Hackathon in Palestine bringing together the Gaza Strip and West Bank. More than 750 young people from different backgrounds joined the Hackathon, grouped in 130 teams to develop 103 innovative ideas bringing solutions to support the COVID-19 response in the areas of health, education, protection, WASH, and community engagement.
- Leading the RCCE with WHO and the Ministry of Health in coordination with partners, UNICEF launched a campaign for the Holy Month of Ramadan and disseminated material reaching nearly 4 million people using social media, mass media, mobile phone messages, and on-ground health promotion.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF distributed 34,356 bottles of drinking water (51,534 litres) in 20 quarantine centers in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of April, benefitting around 3,000 people.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF delivered 15 oxygen concentrators for the West Bank to support the national capacity for case management of COVID-19. An additional 15 oxygen concentrators for Gaza are expected to be delivered shortly. At least 360 COVID-19 cases will benefit from the medical equipment.
- UNICEF released 25,000 vials of Hydrocortisone 100mg powder for injection, from prepositioned supplies in the West Bank for the continuity of care for acute and chronic respiratory illnesses under the outbreak response, this will cover 20 per cent of MoH's annual need equal to 2.5 months of consumption.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF's supported mechanism for monitoring children's access to online learning through the Ministry of Education (MOE) e-learning platform recorded 106,699 children having accessed the e-learning platform so far; however, many families and children are reporting multiple challenges. A working group on distance learning was established with MOE and UNESCO. UNICEF is looking at developing sustainable solutions.
- Requested by the MOE, UNICEF adapted and contextualized the global guidelines for safe school operations. Work on a back-to-school strategy has started to prevent children from dropping out of school.
- In the Gaza Strip and through UNICEF's partners, a total of 13 children have benefited from remote case management support, while 33 children accessed remote individual counselling services. At least 274 children have received remote group activities including life skills and expressive arts, while around 72 children received psychological first aid services. Remote awareness raising on COVID-19 has been provided to 480 children and 690 caregivers.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF have reached 293 people including 118 children with remote child protection interventions including psychosocial support. A total of 781 children (403 boys and 378 girls) continue to receive remote remedial education and 103(42 mothers,35 girls ,26 boys) participated in remote recreational activities. In addition, 70 psychosocial counsellors (8 males, 62 females), were training on provision of remote psychosocial counselling through UNICEF partners.

Sudan

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Nearly 31 million people were reached with accessible information on COVID-19 and messages on prevention and on access to services through 20 electronic/ online newspapers, 13 daily newspapers, and WhatsApp to 2014 media personnel and TV reporters including 30 TV channels (national and international).
- In South Kordofan, support was provided to the State Ministry of Health to produce messages in local languages and dialects. In Blue Nile, in coordination with the Primary Health Care Directorate and Health Promotion department, sub-committees were formed to facilitate the coordination of RCCE activities. In West and Central Darfur, UNICEF and the state government provided COVID-19 messages to 243 active groups through WhatsApp. In White Nile, Blue Nile and Sennar states, 17,380 IEC materials were distributed, and approximately 1,037,324 people were reached through TV and Radio awareness programs; 1,258,960 were reached through loudspeaker announcements; and 13,442 people received SMS communication on COVID-19. Additionally, 240,500 people were reached through announcement made by mosques in Sennar and White Nile. In IDP camps of South, North and East Darfur and COVID-19 high risk areas, around 33,300 (17,200 males, 16:100 females) were reached with hygiene promotion messages and distribution of soap. In East Darfur State, 19 (12 males, 18 females) key community members were trained on COVID-19 prevention and control.
- A new partnership was established with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Development to provide messages during food distribution and 40 adolescents were trained to work with the community.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- Twenty isolation and medical centres of MoH in 10 states (North, South, East, West and Central Darfur, South Kordofan, White Nile, Red Sea, Kassala and Gedarif States) were provided with supplies to cater to the needs of up to a 2,400 caseload. These supplies are enough for the next three months and included, 900 kg of chlorine powder for the preparation of 117,000 litres of chlorine disinfection solution, 675 litres of alcohol sanitizers, 16,200 handwashing soap bars, and 28 (5,000 litres) water storage tanks were distributed.
- 607,320 handwashing soap bars were delivered to WFP/UNHCR to be distributed along with the food basket for targeted vulnerable 200,000 households in Khartoum State during the lockdown.
- Around 6,000 people (3,500 males, 2,500 females) in El Tina (border point of entry), North Darfur State were supported with improved water supply through water trucking.
- UNICEF rehabilitated the mini water yard and the water system of El Geneina isolation center, West Darfur.
- Nearly 191 healthcare facilities staff and community health workers were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To support the practical sessions of trainings on IPC, UNICEF also delivered 140 medical gowns, 140 heavy duty gloves, and 10 N95 masks to the Federal Ministry of Health.
- UNICEF delivered the following items to strengthen government's capacity on IPC in 14 states: 5,385 medical gowns; 1,794 goggles; 5,360 boot covers; 180 heavy duty gloves; 3,590 Hand Sanitizers. In addition, UNICEF delivered the following to Jabra Isolation Centre in Khartoum: 2,000 boot covers, 180 boxes of heavy-duty gloves; six Masks N95; 480 soaps.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported the development of a community based active search and contact tracing guideline which aims at deploying trained and equipped community volunteers to conduct house to house visits for active search and contact tracing. The first national training of trainers was conducted for 13 medical professionals in Khartoum State. A volunteer cadre numbering up to 3,000 is expected to be established, equipped and supervised to conduct community based active case search and contact tracing. At State level, total of 88 Health Workers received capacity building on IPC.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in developing a guideline for continuity of lifesaving health and nutrition services in the context of COVID-19. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 due to flight restriction, the country has enough stock of all vaccines covering needs for the whole of 2020 and Q1 of 2021, except for OPV and BCG which is sufficient for 5 and 7 months respectively and requires US\$ 874,000 to secure additional doses.
- 15,826 children and women received essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response care in UNICEF supported facilities.
- 6,696 of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received IYCF in the context of COVID-19 messages through facility and community platforms.
- Around 1,400 of children under the age of five were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- Around 860 children, parents and primary caregivers were provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support. Around 3,292 children without parental or family care were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.

Syria

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- During the reporting period, UNICEF scaled up risk communication activities in Syria, reaching over 1 million people with posters and stickers, and engaging over 1,000 religious leaders to disseminate Covid-19 prevention messages through 3,600 religious institutions. Over 2.5 million people were reached through Facebook posts, 4 million people through TV broadcasting and 2 million in partnership with Takamol, a Syrian social services mobile app. UNICEF has developed a multi-component package, including a toolkit of key messages and online training material for implementing partners.
- In the Northeast, mobile health and nutrition teams in Tal Hamis, Qahtaniya, Ar-Raqqa resumed outreach activities as facilitated by UNICEF. The distribution of Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials continued in markets and public facilities in Ar-Raqqa and Hasakeh, including IDP and refugee camps. In these IDP camps, over 50,000 people were reached through door to door visits with awareness messages and IEC materials (36,000 in Al Hol, 12,000 in Areesha and 3,800 in Hasakeh shelters). Over 2,000 people were reached in Al Hol and Areesha camps through messages disseminated on WhatsApp groups, while 30 rounds of information dissemination were conducted by loudspeakers. In the Northwest, over 12,000 parents and caregivers were reached with risk communication messages.
- Youth volunteers supported by UNICEF have scaled up digital challenges and surveys around Covid-19. Young people designed a survey on the Voices of Youth-Arabic platform which reached 4,340 people, gathered 701 engagements and recorded 277 responses.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF used its technical expertise to support normative and standards setting by drafting and translating into Arabic four context-specific IPC protocols (for contractors; healthcare facilities; Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour; and schools), as well as a guidance note on chlorine dilution.
- Water trucking quantity per capita was increased where required, including for over 270,000 displaced persons living in camps and informal settlements in the Northwest. UNICEF through its partners completed repairs and disinfection of 120 water tanks in East Ghouta, Rural Damascus benefitting 70,000 people.
- Jointly with WFP food distributions, 800,000 bars of soap were distributed to 3.5 million people. In addition, UNICEF provided 320,000 bars of soap to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) for targeted distributions across the country.
- Almost 40,000 displaced people were reached with hygiene promotion sessions and improved sanitation to reduce queuing. Family Hygiene Kits (FHKs) were distributed to almost 300,000 people in 67 camps and informal sites with additional soap quantities in each kit in Idlib and Aleppo.
- UNICEF continued supporting the provision of training on IPC for implementing partners nation-wide and procured PPEs for partners and for the health sector, covering 10 per cent of the total sector needs (237,180 PPE items distributed).
- In Idlib and Aleppo, almost 40,000 displaced people were reached with hygiene promotion sessions and improved sanitation to reduce queuing in line with social spacing. Family Hygiene Kits were distributed for almost 300,000 people in 67 camps and informal sites.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Efforts are ongoing to sustain the uninterrupted delivery of primary health care services across the country, particularly noteworthy is that UNICEF-supported cold chain maintenance team resumed full operation.

- In the Northeast, mobile health and nutrition teams in Tal Hamis, Qahtaniya, Ar-Raqqa resumed outreach activities as facilitated by UNICEF. The distribution of IEC materials continued in markets and public facilities in Ar-Raqqa and Hasakeh, including IDP and refugee camps. In the Northwest over 12,000 caregivers were reached with risk communication messages.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF and implementing partners are cooperating to provide support to the Ministry of Education in preparation of activities to ensure that the school re-opening will be made in safe conditions for 11,500 schools, serving 3.5 million children.
- Distance and home-based learning programmes, supported by UNICEF, started in several parts of the country with the distribution of colouring and recreational materials, in cooperation with WFP. A total of 400,000 children living in areas with low connectivity were reached with colouring and exercise books.
- The development of TV, radio and online programmes to support distance learning is underway with the Ministry of Education and UNRWA.
- On 22-23 April, 150 case managers from partner NGOs across the country were trained by UNICEF on remote case management. Case managers also received orientations on safety during COVID-19, psychosocial support, prevention and management of SEA, GBV and support for unaccompanied children. This will contribute to the roll-out of the national social response campaign run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Tunisia

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF is collaborating with the Ministry of Health to promote the national government-led hotline to raise awareness and provide psychological support to general public ([link](#)). 69,730 calls were received in two weeks. A campaign against stigmatization of people affected by COVID19 has been launched. UNICEF has established a second hotline dedicated to families, children and adolescents ([link](#)) which is being promoted through a communication campaign on TV and social media.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- Sixty-four tons of WASH/IPC material is en-route and should be delivered by mid-May. This includes coverall protection, ventilated goggles, surgical masks type IIR, and tie strap masks and thermometers (clinical, infrared, non-contact).

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Technical and resource mobilization support provided by UNICEF in coordination with the WHO to support the Ministry of Health National Action Plan for COVID-19. The plan has been budgeted at USD 200 million.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

Education

- Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Education to develop protocols for health and safety of children and staff for reopening schools for catch-up classes, exams and the new school year.
- The Ministry of Education's COVID-19 response plan was finalized with UNICEF's support. A survey is designed with UNICEF support to collect feedback on access and quality of home-based education services (TV, online, etc.).
- A TV and radio campaign to further promote UNICEF's Child Protection hotline was launched on 23 April.
- In the first three weeks, the hotline reached 1,585 people: 23 per cent of calls reported psychological issues, primarily anxiety, and 16 per cent of them reported cases of Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Children. 435 of these cases were referred to the Child Protection Delegate for follow-up.
- The capacity of the Child Protection Delegate to support case management will be strengthened through the procurement of ICT equipment and development of new SOPs on multisectoral coordination and improved online reporting services.

Social Policy and Public Finance

- As of 28 April, approximately 1 million households received social cash transfers from the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNICEF undertook advocacy for the rollout of temporary social cash transfers (currently planned for three months but could be extended) focused on vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19.
- A note on rapidly simulating impact of the COVID-19 crisis on children, and expected effect of child focused mitigation measures, has been finalized. This is being developed in cooperation with UNDP and the World Bank
- UNICEF is engaging with the World Bank and other donors (EU, AfDB etc) to include child focus disbursement indicators and reforms measures in the next budget support agreement with Tunisia.

Yemen

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Nearly 13 million people were reached through discussion programmes, news alerts, drama programmes, public service announcements and live phone-in programmes on radio and television.
- Nearly 613,000 people were reached through 87,000 house-to-house visits, as well as awareness sessions in 38 quarantine centers, while nearly 1 million people were reached through 12,745 awareness sessions in mosques.
- 366 cars mounted with public address systems reached nearly 7 million people especially in communities with poor access to mass media.
- Nearly 2 million views of COVID-19 posts, cards and videos published on different social media platforms including WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter were recorded.
- UNICEF partners continued sending regular SMS and voice messages to 13,500,000 subscribers over the four telecommunication systems.
- About 11,213 Community Volunteers comprising of 4,987 Community volunteers; 4,475 religious' leaders (Imams and 965 Morshydats), and 1,750 School Health facilitators supported community level interventions. Due to heavy rains, direct engagement including house-to-house visits in some locations were postponed or reduced.
- An estimated 4,200 people called the national hotline with questions and concerns about COVID-19. An additional 531 calls were received during radio phone-in programmes on 10 radio stations where health professional answered callers' questions and addressed their concerns on COVID-19.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

- UNICEF's partners distributed 4,283 hygiene kits, including soap, in 84 quarantine centres for over 18,800 returnees in six governorates in the North. Likewise, in the southern governorates, 3,772 basic hygiene kits have been distributed reaching 26,404 people. Emergency water trucking is being provided in Hudaydah, Sa'ada and Sana'a where quarantine centres have been established. Emergency latrine installation and water tank installation was also provided.

Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF is reprogramming 42 ventilators initially for diphtheria centres to the COVID-19 response. Existing WHO/UNICEF supported Diphtheria Isolation centres will remain serving patients with severe forms of diphtheria and other non-COVID-19 emergencies.
- In cooperation with WHO, UNICEF is procuring 10,000 test kits for COVID-19???
- UNICEF provided a generator for Ba-Shuaraheel hospital in Al Mukalla which is an approved Isolation unit by MOH. In addition, Face Masks were delivered to MSF in support of establishing COVID-19 isolation centre in Abs, Hajjah governorate.
- The adaptation of priority guidelines and protocols for continuity of health and nutrition services within the COVID-19 context in about 4,000 primary health care facilities and in communities is ongoing. UNICEF and WHO are preparing for the rollout. The adapted infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and community health workers guidelines are finalized pending endorsement from Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP).
- Aiming to reach 25,000 PHC health and nutrition workers in health facilities and communities for sensitization on COVID-19; reached 1095 in Southern governorates. Similar sensitization is set to start in the Northern Governorates.
- Positioning to support health workers in the primary health care facilities with basic personal protective equipment to ensure safe delivery and continuity of services.
- Continuing with the repositioning of essential commodities and supplies- vaccines, nutrition, and medicines for health facilities, cholera treatment, and nutrition in anticipation of tight lockdown measures.
- Started analysis of likely impact of COVID-19 on acute malnutrition under the nutrition cluster and in cooperation with the food security cluster.

Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services

- The National Education COVID-19 Response Strategy and Plan was developed for official validation by MOE and humanitarian/development partners.
- The task forces, set up in Aden and Sana'a, continue to meet regularly, including with the Minister in Aden. As part of this, UNICEF is working with relevant authorities and partners to develop materials for virtual broadcasting.
- COVID-19 messages were disseminated during verification process of teachers under the Education Teachers (ETI) and Temporary Teachers (TTI) Incentives programs, as well as Rural Female Teachers (RFT) – in cooperation with Partnership and Mobilisation Unit.
- Advocacy efforts on the risk of spread of COVID-19 in prisons resulted in the release of 10 children who committed minor offences.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (Mosal) with support from UNICEF set up 3 call centres in Amanat al Asma, Aden and Hadramout to provide online PSS and case management.
- 85 unaccompanied Yemeni children from 2 quarantine centres in Saa'da are receiving family tracing support in the form of registration, documentation and PSS from MOSAL-Sa'ada.

- UNICEF and Child Protection actors adapted Child Protection case management guidance to COVID-19 and finalized a referral tool for health workers to identify and refer children in quarantine and isolation centers in need of critical child protection services. This document was endorsed by the Health Cluster.

Coordination

The UNICEF Regional Office and country offices across the MENA region continue to engage and work in close cooperation and coordination with governments, WHO, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centres for Disease Control, INGOs, local NGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies, World Bank and others to avoid overlaps and optimise complementarities in the response.

A regional meeting between Ministries of Education of the region and hosted by UNICEF and UNESCO, is scheduled for 14th of May. The meeting will discuss concerns around the reopening of schools, as part of the regional Back to School campaign. In addition, UNICEF has initiated the development of a framework and tool to assess access of children to the various home-based learning options. MENARO is supporting UNICEF Country Offices by mapping and sharing (Arabic) learning sources, best practices and other guidelines, and linking with potential partners that offer support to enhance learning options. This includes for instance tablets and contents from Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI - UEA) or the Learning Passport (UNICEF-Microsoft) reading and life-skills platforms from Al Nayzak (SoP).

UNICEF is also leading - along with ILO, UNDP, UNESCWA and the International Policy Centre for inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) - a rapid mapping of social protection responses in MENA and a Public Finance for Children COVID-19 landscape analysis. These studies are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Advocacy and Partnerships

Through increased cooperation with the World Bank, UNICEF continues regionally and at country level to advocate for the strengthening and expansion of social protection systems that include children from families affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

The UNICEF MENA Regional Office has engaged the Stockholm International Water Institute on mapping measures implemented by respective governments in the WASH sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mapping will help highlight blind spots, shortfalls and help draw lessons for policy work post COVID-19.

UNICEF is partnering with the private sector across the region, to keep children and families safe during and after the peak of the pandemic. A wide variety of partners have expressed interest to contribute funds or goods / services-in-kind to support national response efforts. For instance, UNICEF is engaging retailers to provide hygiene products and food packages for the most vulnerable families, and private foundations to provide funds to support the most vulnerable children in the MENA region.

Advocacy continues with the different governments and authorities in the region to follow up on UNICEF's plea to release all children in detention.

External Media

STATEMENTS

[As COVID-19 pandemic continues, forcibly displaced children need more support than ever](#)
[COVID-19: Global ceasefire would be a gamechanger for 250 million children living in conflict](#)
 كوفيد-19: من شأن تنفيذ وقف عالمي لإطلاق النار أن يُحدث تحولاً هائلاً لـ250 مليون طفل في مناطق النزاع

PRESS RELEASES

[Children in detention are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and should be released](#)
 يتعرّض الأطفال في السجون ومراكز الاحتجاز وبشكل كبير لخطر الإصابة بـ"كوفيد-19" مما يستوجب الإفراج عنهم
[Arrival of lifesaving supplies in L ibya](#)
 وصول إمدادات منقذة للحياة إلى ليبيا

[Children at increased risk of harm online during global COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 الأطفال يواجهون مستوى أكبر من خطر التعرّض للأذى عبر الإنترنت في جائحة كوفيد-19 العالمية — اليونسيف

[Between a rock and a hard place: COVID-19 doubles the burden for millions of children in the Middle East and North Africa Region](#)

بين المطرقة والسندان: "كوفيد-19" يضاعف من معاناة الأطفال في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

[Cleaning and hygiene tips to help keep the COVID-19 virus out of your home](#)
 إرشادات للنظافة والتنظيف لمساعدتك على إبعاد فيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19) عن منزلك

[Indoor play ideas to stimulate young children at home](#)

[How to keep your child safe online while stuck at home during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

[كيف تحافظ على أمان طفلك على شبكة الإنترنت أثناء ملازمة المنزل بسبب انتشار كوفيد-19](#)

RESOURCES

[UNICEF Middle East and North Africa website](#)

[Regional RCCE Multimedia Assets](#)

Main COVID-19 page:

[COVID\(مرض فيروس كورونا \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Resource mobilisation

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa received US\$15.3 Million out of US\$ 92.4 Million required to support partners' efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through provision of critical supplies and adequate health care and responding to the social economic impacts of the disease.

Funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus. To meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF country offices have reallocated some flexible funds from regular resources to kick start the prevention activities and procure urgent emergency supplies.

For further information on UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Response, as well as key indicator's included in country's response plans in the MENA region:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

https://www.unicef.org/appeals/Novel%20Coronavirus_sitreps.html

<https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-unicef-support-middle-east-and-north-africa>

Next SitRep: 15 May 2020

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Funding Status*

| Country | Requirements | Funds available | Funding gap | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | | | \$ | % |
| Algeria | \$1,405,000 | \$0 | \$1,405,000 | 100% |
| Djibouti | \$1,550,000 | \$214,443 | \$1,335,557 | 86% |
| Egypt | \$12,666,108 | \$0 | \$12,666,108 | 100% |
| Iran | \$6,400,000 | \$2,624,541 | \$3,775,459 | 59% |
| Iraq | \$9,750,000 | \$1,073,000 | \$8,677,000 | 89% |
| Jordan | \$6,632,741 | \$300,003 | \$6,332,738 | 95% |
| Lebanon | \$13,940,170 | \$1,126,443 | \$12,813,727 | 92% |
| Libya | \$4,161,000 | \$143,000 | \$4,018,000 | 97% |
| Morocco | \$986,500 | \$0 | \$986,500 | 100% |
| Oman | \$200,000 | \$0 | \$200,000 | 100% |
| State of Palestine | \$2,303,480 | \$2,742,000 | | 0% |
| Sudan | \$7,063,000 | \$428,000 | \$6,635,000 | 94% |
| Syria | \$9,183,334 | \$6,250,000 | \$2,933,334 | 32% |
| Tunisia | \$2,250,000 | \$432,000 | \$1,818,000 | 81% |
| Yemen | \$12,734,000 | \$0 | \$12,734,000 | 100% |
| MENARO | \$1,175,000 | \$0 | \$1,175,000 | 100% |
| Total | \$92,400,333 | \$15,333,429 | \$77,505,424 | 84% |

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 25/03/2020 for a period of 9 month. Funds Available are as of 29/04/2020. In addition to above funding received against the HAC, the Global Partnership for Education funded the response to the amount of US\$ 823,900 and from Education Cannot Wait to the amount of US\$ 1,450,000. Offices in the region used US\$1,238,249 from Global Thematic Humanitarian response fund to cover urgent needs as well as US\$ 154,314 from Global Education Thematic Fund and US\$126,248 from Global – Child Protection Thematic fund. \$ 543,338 DFID general contribution towards COVID-19 related response for the State of Palestine were added to the existing grant (COVID19-related top up to the grant coded with HAC State of Palestine). US\$ 88,860 European Commission amendment to the existing grant (use of contingency funds) will be used by the Morocco office for the COVID-19 response