Highlights

- A total of 45,318 new cases were reported in the South Asia Region during the reporting period bringing the total to 138,974 cases and 3,731 deaths. This represents a 48% increase compared to last week with Nepal recording the highest percentage increase (119%). India reported 25,051 new cases, Pakistan added 11,715 new cases, Bangladesh 6,103 new cases, and Afghanistan 1,834 new cases.

- UNICEF is concerned that infant mortality could increase for the first time in decades in South Asia region due to the impact of COVID-19 and reverse the development gains. According to recent study, an additional 432,000 under-five deaths could occur in just six months, due to reductions in routine health service coverage levels and an increase in child wasting. Therefore, the organization continue to support government in strengthening health systems to mitigate such impacts.

- An estimated 780 million people have been reached across the region with key COVID-19 prevention messages as UNICEF country offices continue to support governments in promoting risk communication and community engagement. Recent assessments conducted in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan show that overall the levels of awareness on COVID-19 is high; 98% in Bangladesh (although 76% among uneducated); 98% in Nepal, 92% in India and 90% in Pakistan.

- In collaboration with governments and partners, 4 million children and women have benefitted from essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care.

- In line with the changing environment, UNICEF in South Asia has revised its Appeal and needs $243.5 million to reach 500 million people with risk communication, critical supplies, adequate health care, continuous education, child protection and social protection services to address other social impacts of the disease.

UNICEF’s Response Budget in South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community engagement</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC &amp; WASH services</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Health Care</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home based learning</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data and Access to Research</td>
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UNICEF in South Asia

COVID-19

Situation Report No.10

Reporting Period: May 07 – 13, 2020

UNICEF Appeal 2020

For South Asia

US$ 243.5 million

Situation in Numbers

45,318

No. of new cases over the past week (SAARC DMC May 06, 2020)

139,974

Total cases of COVID 19 (SAARC DMC May 06, 2020)

500,000,000

# of targeted population to be reached with risk messages by UNICEF response (ROSA Response Plan 2020)

94,000,000

# of targeted children to be reached with home learning

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Funding Overview and Partnerships
As part of a Global COVID-19 Appeal, UNICEF South Asia has revised its appeal to US$ 243.5 million to support government 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. This appeal increased substantially in line with the escalating need needs due to the spread of COVID in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received $43.2 million from the CERF, Asia Development Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CERF, CIDA, DFAT, DFID, Facebook Foundation, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Government of Denmark, Government of Finland, KFW, Japanese Government, London Stock Exchange, World Bank, UN Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered Bank, SIDA, Uniliver and USAID. In view of the worsening situation, the requests for support have sharply increased and additional funding is urgently required to support government, communities and children to scale up intervention for preparedness and response to stop the spread of the virus and support government service delivery system and respond to social impacts of the pandemic which threaten to reverse development gains.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
South Asia region recorded a total of 45,318 newly confirmed cases during the reporting period bringing the total to 138,974 confirmed cases and 3,731 deaths. This represents a 48% increase compared to last week with Nepal recording the highest percentage increase (153%). India reported 25,051 new cases, Pakistan added 11,715 new cases, Bangladesh 6,103 new cases, Afghanistan 1,834 new cases, Maldives 338 new cases and Sri Lanka 118 new cases as shown in the Figure 1 below. UNICEF is concerned that infant mortality could increase for the first time in decades in South Asia region due to the impact of COVID-19 and reverse the development gains. According to recent study, an additional 432,000 under-five deaths could occur in just six months, due to reductions in routine health service coverage levels and an increase in child wasting. It is estimated that in the next six months up to 300,000 children could die of preventable diseases in India alone; 95,000 in Pakistan, 28,000 in Bangladesh, 13,000 in Afghanistan, and 4,000 in Nepal. Therefore, the organization continue to scale up its interventions to support governments to strengthening health systems to ensure continuous provision and delivery of health and nutrition services to mitigate such impacts and prevent COVID-19 becoming a lasting crisis for vulnerable children. With the onset of the Monsoon Season, UNICEF has started review its preparedness capabilities in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which is likely to exacerbate the situation in event of mass displacements.

Figure 1; South Asia Confirmed cases from March 31 - May 13, 2020

Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps and SAARC Disaster Management Centre

Partnership and Coordination
UNICEF regional office and country offices continue to engage and work in close collaboration and coordination with WHO, governments, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centre for Disease Control, INGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies such as Asia Development Bank, World Bank and others. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka, UNICEF is actively engaged in the UNCT coordination mechanism to support the government response. In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka where government led cluster or sector mechanism have been activated or remain active, UNICEF co-leads the WASH sector, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection and is engaging in the inter sectoral working group to develop joint inter-sectoral preparedness and response plan. Through the sector or cluster leadership, UNICEF Country Offices continue to support

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2 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30229-1/fulltext
3 https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
4 http://www.covid19-sdmc.org
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The Regional Office and Country offices response plans have been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal. The key priority for the RO/CO response plans is on the immediate measures that must be undertaken to ensure preparedness and response actions to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in each country focusing on the following areas; (1) risk communication and community engagement, (2) Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies, (3) Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management, (4) access to continuous education and child protection services, and promoting cash transfers to address the social impact of the epidemic. Recognizing the specific impact on women, adolescents and children, the strategy includes engagement with women leaders and organizations to reach communities, and integration of measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response across sectors.

Building on UNICEF country wide networks, ongoing programs and vast network of partners, UNICEF in South Asia stepped up its engagement in risk communication and community engagement relying on its know-how on hygiene promotion, social and behaviour change communication and experience from polio and previous epidemics, including in this region (SARS, H1N1 etc).

**Afghanistan Country Office:**

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**
- UNICEF media COVID-19 campaign continues to be broadcasted across 167 local channels. This campaign is expected to reach more than 6 million people with key risk communication messages.
- 340 community health workers mobilized and oriented on COVID 19 (177 males, 163 female) to reach 102,000 individuals in their communities.
- 185 religious leaders have been orientated on key COVID-19 preventative messages and expected to reach 92,500 people.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies**
- In order to strengthen to build community resilience against COVID19 and complex humanitarian crisis in the country, 10,520 people affected by conflict and natural hazards in Samangan, Jawzjan, Balkh, Laghman, Nuristan, Takhar and Kunduz received emergency family hygiene kits to promote good hygiene practices.
- 7,540 returnees from Iran has benefited from WASH facilities and services at Melak and Islam Qala border maintained by UNICEF.
- As part of hygiene promotion, a total of 7,043 people in Badghis and Herat province has benefited hygiene awareness messages while 7,518 people has received handwashing soap bar in Herat, Farah and Ghor provinces.

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management**
- Due to the COVID-19, the significant reduction of attendance in health facilities has prompted high demand for Mobile Health Teams which has also resulted in a shift in center based activities towards more targeted interventions. Therefore, UNICEF continue to support health services including mobile health teams to provide continued access and delivery of services for children and women. A total 11,935 children and women childbearing age benefited from basic health and nutrition services of ANC, PNC, IMNHI, Nutrition screening and EPI.
- UNICEF analyzed the implication of COVID-19 on nutrition programming across the country. The analysis revealed a 40 percent decrease in the trend of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admission in inpatient services during COVID-19 time (March 2020) versus non-COVID-19 time (February 2020).
- UNICEF procured and distributed protective materials including mask, soap and hand sanitizer for nutrition extenders and counselor nutrition counselor extenders in all provinces. In addition, UNICEF delivered 100 PPE kits to the isolation units in Nangarhar Province.

**Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services**
- UNICEF continues to support MoE in broadcasting lessons on different subjects for K-12 students across Afghanistan who have access to TV.
- UNICEF and partners as part of the Students Learning Pathways Taskforce developed and disseminated third package for grade 1 to grade 3 CBE students in Dari and Pashtu languages and shared with all Education in Emergency partners.
UNICEF revised the first year of Education Cannot Wait Multi-Years Resilience Programme (ECW MYRP) projects in response to COVID-19. The interventions will target 120,000 primary school age children in 9 provinces of Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz, Paktika, Nangarhar, Sar-e-Pul, and Uruzgan.

- 33,214 including 20,030 children (girls: 10,315, boys: 9,715) and 13,184 community members (women 5,979, men: 7,205) received knowledge and skill on COVID-19
- 11,102 including 10,231 children (girls: 4768, boys: 5463) and 871 parents (mothers: 282, fathers: 589) received psychosocial support to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience and normalcy.
- 254 (girls: 1, boys: 253) without parental care including returnees were reunited with their families. They have also received psychosocial support and temporary shelter.

**Bangladesh Country Office;**

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- COVID-19 RCCE response plan has been scaled up in six divisions through community radio, cable TV, street miking and engagement of religious leaders, ensuring widespread reach in remote areas. Local administrations are implementing the plan following the guidelines and messages developed under the RCCE Pillar to ensure consistency throughout the country. As the lockdown has been eased for praying at mosques, a set of messages were developed immediately and shared with RCCE Pillar for wider dissemination. Though the general awareness about the disease among the people is high, it is challenging for vulnerable urban populations to take protective measures like staying home and maintaining physical distance due to economic reasons and living conditions. Special attention is required to develop a communication package considering the reality of urban slum dwellers.
- Interactive radio programmes to engage children are being aired with an estimated reach of 542,500 people. A new Meena animation was launched to promote staying home and sharing ideas on spending time in constructive and fun way, which defies gender stereotypes. These messages reached two million people in one week.
- In the last one month, the reach of communication coordinated by the RCCE Pillar through social media, TV and traditional media has increased from 37.5 million to 50 million. This is mainly associated to an increasing number of Facebook users in Bangladesh. This week’s mass media highlights include:
  - **Traditional media:** Localized press release on pregnant mothers, and babies born under the shadow of COVID-19; Meena live call-in shows on Betar regional radio stations reach over 600,000 people.
  - **Multimedia:** Premiere of UNICEF LIVE “Adda” series on Facebook with the first episode focusing on caring for children during lockdown; TV and social media launch of a PSA on combatting stigma; a video report by child journalist Adrita on the joys of having working parents at home; and a Meena video on how to have fun and be equal at home.
  - **Social media:** Highlights of posts with individual reach of over six million include Ramadan charity and physical distancing; self-care advice for children with disabilities; promotion of the national women and child helpline; and guidance for the elderly.

UNICEF and partners are fully covering the camps and all upazillas through radio programmes, TV, loudspeakers, billboards, religious leaders and social mobilizers among others. In the last week, interpersonal messaging reached 23,509 people (11,725 females); study sessions by female religious volunteers engaged 600 women and 112 girls; and 365 boys and 385 girls participated in radio listeners’ clubs.

- 133,841 people were reached with mosque-based messages through 200 mosques across 34 camps. Intensification of messages in more remote upazillas is challenging due to inaccessibility and limited partner presence; this will be exacerbated during the monsoon season. Partners are being urged to increase the coverage of their communication activities through extending radio coverage, loudspeakers and religious leaders.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies**

- This week, 740 (452 female) service providers from health facilities in the eight UNICEF focus districts received online training on IPC. So far, 1,120 of 2,000 targeted staff has completed the training. UNICEF also provided technical support for an updated national training module for health care providers on IPC in COVID-19 facilities, which has been developed for face-to-face training and includes a special module for cleaners and ambulance drivers.
- The Bangladesh strategic paper to WASH- COVID-19 response was launched on 5 May by the Minister of Local Government Division, Rural Development and Cooperatives and shared with development partners and senior officials from the ministry. UNICEF Bangladesh provided technical assistance to the ministry and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) for the paper, which will serve as a guiding document for the COVID-19 WASH Response in Bangladesh.
- This week, 384,000 people (222,912 women) were reached with UNICEF-supported interventions including the repair of 2,082 handpumps, chlorination of 131 piped water systems, distribution of 72,500 bars of soap and...
construction of 200 handwashing devices in public places by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

- Two UNICEF doctors (1 female) participated in the second round of WHO IPC training of trainers. The UNICEF doctors will now train health workers at all UNICEF-supported health facilities including the Teknaf SARI ITC. Additionally, an online IPC training was arranged by the Civil Surgeon’s office with support from UNICEF for:
  - 10 health workers (all males) from Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital;
  - 50 health workers (22 females) from Ukhiya Upazilla Health Complex; and
  - 12 health workers (2 females) from Chakaria Upazilla Health Complex.

- A training of trainers on clinical case management of COVID-19 was conducted by WHO, with participation of 4 doctors (1 female) from UNICEF. It covered topics such as epidemiology of COVID-19; case and contact definitions; clinical syndromes; management of mild, moderate, severe and critical cases; and discharge, follow-up and special care.

- UNICEF continues to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for 240,000 people and has added disinfection to its regular operations and maintenance of WASH infrastructure, with 7,456 water points, latrines and other WASH infrastructure disinfected in the past week. The Rohingya population has shared their concerns about maintaining social distance while accessing WASH services such as water points. Further work is required across the camps to see if such protective measures need to be enforced.

- UNICEF and its partners are intensifying the engagement of refugees across the camps, with all households reached at least once. This week, 67,996 community members were reached with hygiene promotion. The Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group developed guidelines for the elderly, who have less exposure to mass media and awareness-raising initiatives around COVID-19. 388,174 people were reached in the district through mass media messaging on COVID-19 awareness with the Upazila Administration, DPHE and Local Government.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- Following the SAM facility assessment, a joint meeting was held with Institute of Public Health Nutrition of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A detailed action plan has been developed to increase capacities for SAM management of children with clear roles and responsibilities with timelines.

- UNICEF is working with Nutrition Information and Planning Unit in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to analyse data related to SAM management (including screening, admissions and treatment indicators). This will be used for follow-up to identify areas where there is a drop in service or admissions.

- Due to movement restrictions and concerns about COVID-19, only 13 per cent of planned immunization sessions were conducted in the host communities last week – 100 per cent in Kutubdia and 4 per cent in Ukhiya – down from 25 per cent the week before. In the Rohingya camps, 43 per cent of sessions were conducted.

- On an average in 2019, community nutrition volunteers (CNVs) screened 145,000 children under 5 years of age in the camps every month. With access to camps restricted for many CNVs, Nutrition Sector partners have adopted two approaches, i.e. (1) training mothers/caregivers to screen and refer their own children and (2) recruiting additional CNVs from the Rohingya community. UNICEF partners are hiring an additional 142 Rohingya CNVs (up from 296). These steps have resulted in a slight increase in admissions compared to the early stages of lockdown. At the same time, further work is required including training more mothers/caregivers. This week, 128 children (78 female) were admitted for SAM treatment.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF estimates that around 60 per cent of children are being reached with distance learning. UNICEF is working with partner A2i to increase the monitoring of access to distance learning through a SMS message to nine million mothers. Limitation of monitoring system and capacity has been one of the key challenges to verify the exact coverage of the distance learning programmes to date.

- 500,500 people were reached through the child protection workforce and partners with messaging this week, including 500 adolescent peer leaders and cub members reached by Child Rights Facilitators through social media.

- An estimated 42 per cent of respondents in the Inter-Agency Assessment under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) have indicated an increase in the “beating” of children since the lockdown. This indicates the need for strong advocacy and continued protection messaging throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period.

- The quick release of children from overcrowded detention facilities is urgently needed to avoid spread of COVID-19. UNICEF has been engaged with the Supreme Court Committee of Child Rights and the Ministry of Law to look into options so that children may be released and unified with their families or be provided with alternative care. An estimated 500 children meet the criteria for urgent release and will need a reintegration package to assist them settle in the community.

- 35,203 children (16,307 girls) out of 100,000 targeted Rohingya children in camps are engaged in home-based learning activities.

- A survey was launched on 3 May which has so far covered 7,232 respondents (25 per cent female) with over 21,000 children from 21 camps. The preliminary analysis shows that 72 per cent of respondents said their children are engaged in home-based learning. 96 per cent also said that they use workbooks provided at the learning centres which were provided to the children to take home on the last day of classes in the camps.
• Child Protection services continued including psychosocial support (12,332 beneficiaries, 5,719 females); positive parenting messages (9,794 parents and caregivers, 4,400 females); and case management (133 children and survivors, 88 female).
• PSEA and GBV training included 9 partner staff (7 females) trained on PSEA and 45 UNICEF personnel and partner staff (37 females) on GBV risk mitigation and response services.
• Adolescent and youth engagement initiatives on COVID-19 reached 4,095 adolescents (2,016 girls) through home-based care of siblings, peer to peer discussion and home visits

Bhutan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement
• UNICEF supported development and implementation of the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement action plan
• An estimated 300,000 of the population has been reached on COVID-19 preventive and containment messages through the mobilization of more than 7,000 community influential individuals and groups and launch of social media and mass media campaigns. Since March, there has been a total reach, through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter of 5,436,009, and total impressions of 13,119,510.
• 2465 volunteer guardians of peace constituting the new batch of Desuups have been sensitized on COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health.
• Risk communication needs assessment completed for focused communication interventions (dengue and COVID-19) in the high-risk communities of Phuentsholing municipality. This will inform the development of a way forward in discussion with UNICEF, UNFPA, Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.
• Pulse survey on COVID-19 awareness in remote communities completed. While there is good awareness of COVID-19, the level of understanding on symptoms and prevention indicates a need for reinforced community engagement to ensure effective reach.
• In terms of communication and awareness raising, UNICEF continues to support the government and a new COVID19STORIES campaign for ECCD facilitators (#earlylearningfromhome) with a story of a facilitator was recently launched. These stories will be shared from June when the parenting month is observed. https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/early-moments-still-matter
• UNICEF Bhutan has adapted the ROSA's health heroes social media pack and continued airing preventive messages through mass media on COVID-19 and vehicle messages on coping with stress on social media with continued #COVID19STORIES.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies
• UNICEF continues to support Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) through interventions aimed at strengthening hygiene and sanitation. In accordance with the country COVID-19 operational response plan, the supply distribution plan of soaps was revised to consider integrated delivery of soaps with take home ration of school feeding program. The soaps finally arrived in the country after being stuck at the border for the last two months.
• The first phase of installation of public hand washing stations with provision for safe drinking water (77 tap points at 25 public places) has been completed through tripartite partnership of MoH, SNV and UNICEF in four municipalities (Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Samdrup Jongkhar and Gelephu) and six districts (Samtse, Paro, Punakha, Mongar, Trashigang and Pema Gatsel). The public hand washing station are expected to benefit 21,650 out of the targeted 50,000 beneficiaries in four municipalities and 20 districts by the end of 2020.
• In order to encourage and remind the population to practice their hand hygiene practices, the Country Office worked with the government in developing IEC materials to further reinforce public awareness on proper handwashing techniques and hand hygiene.
• To facilitate maintenance of the WASH facilities installed and encourage more facilities in public places to combat COVID-19, 23 technicians, including 5 women saw their capacity enhanced. They are now fit to perform periodic maintenance of water taps, change water filters and UV light tubes and troubleshooting other issues to ensure continuity of services.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services
• The Education in Emergency (EiE) Plan Phase II (response to COVID-19 Pandemic) developed with the technical support of UNICEF was approved by the Honorable Prime Minister on 7th May, and will benefit all children from an equity lens (vulnerability and hard to reach children);
• UNICEF is assisting the Government in ensuring continuity of education through different platforms TV and digital programmes, in partnership with the national public service broadcaster. Support has been provided to print 5,000 copies of parenting support booklets printed in Dzongkha (national language) and English for distribution to 5,000 children and their families in Eastern Bhutan.
• The Country Office is continuing its advocacy efforts with national authorities to ensure that school counsellors are trained and mobilized to provide information and psychosocial support to children and vulnerable people both remotely and face to face, once the schools reopen. 129 school counsellors from all 20 districts are currently being trained with the help of the training manual on psychosocial support (PSS) for children. In terms of access to service, 154 children (87 boys and 87 girls) and 54 (27 male and 27 female) adults have
been referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided counselling services through the Sherig Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

India Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Over 52,000 State Rural Livelihood Missions personnel have been trained on risk communication and community engagement to reach and engage thousands of villages with COVID-19 preventive key messages and actions

- Ministry of Health approved National Stigma and Discrimination Campaign Strategy with key messages and actions. UNICEF taking lead coordinating role with all development partners and UN agencies. A number of activities have been already completed, including a series of trainings for staff of national and state call centres, radio jockeys, and railway audio announcements have been developed for nationwide broadcast Social mobilization through health frontline functionaries and multiple engagement platforms (SHGs, CSOs) reached approximately 36 million people in 14 states.

- Social media reach of 234.5 million has been added this week (3 - 10 May 2020) to a total of 634 million since 3 March 202. This has been driven by organic reach on Facebook at 207 million. UNICEF India COVID-19 content appeared on social media feeds 19.2 million times on average every day during the overall 68-day campaign period and was seen by around 9.3 million on average per day. Total of 1.3 billion impressions and more than 419 million video views during the entire campaign.

- Educational materials (videos, radio spots, key messages, webinars recorded) were developed in collaboration with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on healthy diets and psychological well-being. A compilation of links to such materials has been circulated.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- UNICEF state offices in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Telangana, Odisha have provided supplies such as soaps, masks, and hygiene kits in partnership with government, NGO and CSRs.

- Maharashtra and Odisha have conducted special training and supported assessment of shelter camps and temporary migrant camps for workers to return to their home state.

- WASH services were supported by Multiple states (Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, etc.) such as development of handwashing points in communities, Sanitation and water facilities in temporary migrant shelters and camps and advocating with government for establishing soap production centers.

- UNICEF supplied components of Personal Protective Equipment to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at National level and in Madhya Pradesh, including surgical masks and gloves.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

- UNICEF in collaboration with WHO, NDMA, Sphere India, and HCL Foundation has organized a series of virtual events related to on ‘Save Lives: Clean your hand’ and ‘Nursing and Midwifery’, leveraging the platform of COVID-19 Academy.

- MOHFW has finalized and disseminated to state a guidance on Immunization service continuity; the UNICEF team supported the MoHFW in finalizing such note.

- Supported orientation meeting on "Monitoring continuity of community-led and systems actions under the Swabhimaan program, during and after COVID-19" through remote surveys, led by ROSHNI - Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action in partnership with International Institute of Population Sciences, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Natr Rural Livelihood Mission, Lady Irwin College.

- Experiences from multiple states with regards to implementing COVID sensitive nutrition were compiled in the document ‘Voices from the Field’. This includes 11 stories from different states, which have been disseminated through POSHAN weekly newsletter to a wide range of audiences.

- Continued advocacy and programmatic support were ensured at States Level: In Odisha, UNICEF supported training of 25,000 PRI members of 314 blocks on management of temporary medical camps. In Jharkhand, the state government issued directives for continuation of IFA supplementation programs. In Chhattisgarh, a third round of assessment from the 27 districts regarding status of priority nutrition programs was completed.
Due to continuation in lockdown of schools, multiple states have been conducting orientation of teachers and school administration on COVID-19 prevention and control. Bihar has integrated school safety messages which was broadcasted by a National television channel (Doordarshan). Andhra Pradesh has prepared an advocacy brief on Menstrual Hygiene Management and West Bengal and Odisha developed SOPs on School and Anganwadi reopening preparedness plans.

UNICEF in partnership with the National Institute for Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS) trained 882 ChildLine functionaries and 350 child protection functionaries in Odisha on basics of mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS) and first aid. Also conducted a session with ATAL Innovation Mission (AIM) on MHPSS through YouTube, followed by 10,077 viewers. A webinar on child protection during Covid19 and role of academia in supporting research and outreach was conducted in partnership with Amity University for over 250 participants.

In Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar and West Bengal 105,300 adolescents and young people including National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports have been trained by UNICEF. West Bengal Government and UNICEF launched the Ami Corona Superhero’ (I am Corona Superhero) social media campaign expected to reach over 80,000 adolescents in partnership with the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). In Madhya Pradesh, NSS Youth organized a peer-led webinar on their own with 200 participants, on COVID19 prevention and key child protection priorities, including preventing violence against children.

In Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF has supported migrant workers’ identification and account detail verification in 20 districts which has enabled 2300 families to access social protection schemes. In Odisha, UNICEF, partners (Action Aid and Aid-et-action) and the District legal Services Authority (DLSA) are collaborating across 18 districts to create linkages with referral services and legal aid for children in need of care and protection including those of migrants, and 33,900 functionaries supporting the 7000 Temporary Medical Camps for migrants have been trained on Child Protection. In J&K, Psychological First Aid (PFA) has been provided to 590 stranded migrant labourers.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

In Kerala, UNICEF completed a rapid assessment of COVID 19 response and documented good practices. Key findings of the assessment reveal a strongly equity focused response from the government, which has tremendously benefitted communities and which potentially yields useful lessons for other state governments.

Maharashtra has taken specific measures focusing on capacity building of gram panchayats and integrate COVID19 actions using the untied funds from the 15th Finance Commission recommendations for Gram Panchayats.

In Chhattisgarh, the second round of rapid assessments was completed with the Government and Inter-Agency-Group partners for influencing social protection policies/ sectoral interventions for children and women

Maldives Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Last week's joint RCCE multi-lingual messaging focused on how families can establish new, healthy and inclusive routines during their time indoors, creating awareness on reducing the likelihood of infection by keeping "contact bubbles" small and sharing guidance on available vital services such as immunization. During the current reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached over 400,000 people on social media across the Maldives. The cumulative reach through UNICEF daily messages and infographics disseminated through all our social media channels via multiple platforms stood at 41,214,223.

A children's book about fun things to do at home (during the emergency) was produced and released last week. In the book, done in Dhivehi language, Yousuf and Saara reach out to young readers with some of the important things to consider while at home, such as washing hands with soap, keeping in touch with relatives by calling them regularly, exercising at home, and confiding in adults if they feel scared or uneasy about the situation around them.

The theme of the specific messages UNICEF disseminated through its social media platforms, during the reporting period focused on understanding the stress children and young people are undoubtedly going through due to the pandemic, and the things they and their parents/caregivers can do to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

Immunization and child nutrition services resumed through appointment basis, in compliance with the restricted movement order in place.
UNICEF continues to work with the national health authorities to monitor pregnant women who are COVID 19 positive and infants. UNICEF provided feedback on the draft guidance simplified guidance note developed by Government agencies on the management of the possible separation of children and families when one is positive.

UNICEF is assisting with the strengthening of mental health services and is in early discussion with the Center for Mental Health and MRC to identify areas for UNICEF support.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

UNICEF has completed the recruitment of a social work supervisor as part of UNICEF’s response support to the Ministry of Gender, Family, and Social Services to address cases of violence against children and gender-based violence. Through this additional technical support, UNICEF will be assisting the 25 case managers in Male’, and about 27 staff from the Family and Children Service Centers spread across the 19 atolls.

Training of teachers on Google classroom continued, and a total of 57 teachers completed the training last week. They are waiting for certification by Google.

Based on a UNICEF proposal of three safe options for continuity of learning, the MoE acquired a decision from the Social Council for the resumption of distance learning during the COVID-19 lockdown. Further to the Social Council’s approval, the MoE shared with UNICEF a draft plan for learning continuity. UNICEF provided detailed feedback and suggestions for the enhancement of the plan. The aim is for learning to resume within a week.

Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

UNICEF and partners concluded the provision of emergency assistance to the children of vulnerable families. The distribution covered 600 vulnerable families unable to secure basic food for their children. Worth mentioning is that the original idea of providing cash assistance to these families could not be agreed by the families and the Government due to the urgency of the matter and the difficulty for these families to access commodities during the lockdown. UNICEF and partners are currently discussing a proposal for a Timebound Targeted Emergency Child Grant. The grant is planned for an initial period of 3 months, covering some 4000 vulnerable HHs with children under the age of 5 years.

Nepal Country Office;

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

During the reporting period, the UNICEF/MoHP “Corona Capsule” radio and “COVID Care” television programmes reached round 6 million people with protective messaging “ on the importance of handwashing, social distancing, COVID testing and treatment services, breastfeeding, mental health and the availability of essential health services. Viewers/listeners submitted 115 questions and concerns related to government relief efforts and the availability of the health services and COVID treatment and testing services through the programmes and had their questions answered by government representatives.

Health care facility staff and health management committees can now strengthen their efforts to protect themselves and others through a dedicated Ministry of Health and Population/UNICEF/WHO Package for Health Care Facilities, which is available in Nepali and being distributed to health staff throughout Nepal.

UNICEF conducted a survey with 2000 respondents (52 percent female and 48 percent male) to understand who is being reached and people’s ability to recall COVID-19 messages has been conducted. Preliminary findings showed that more than 98 percent know about COVID-19. Around 60 percent are receiving information from television, more than 50 percent from radio and 34 percent from Facebook. People are asking more information on available COVID-19 treatment, testing facilities, immunity boosting food and others.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

As part of infection prevention and control measures, UNICEF provided critical WASH supplies to 28 Health Care Facilities (HCFs) designated for COVID-19, nine isolation centres, and four quarantine centres established by the municipalities, and targeted communities in the 31 districts of five Provinces, including water purification tablets (72,440) and flocculants / disinfectant (144,000), hygiene kits (842), buckets and mugs (579), soaps (2,658), bleaching powder (990 kgs), hand sanitisers (2,374) and other disinfection and cleaning materials.

A currently on-going comprehensive assessment of Health Care Facilities is covering 12 priority Level 2 Hospitals this week. These assessments will determine the WASH support needs for IPC, health care waste management and clinical management.

UNICEF provided 15,000 surgical masks and 15,000 surgical gloves to support the designated COVID hospitals and the isolation facilities. With this, UNICEF has supported a total 86,500 surgical masks and 35,000 surgical gloves as well as 3,445 bottle hand sanitizers.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.

Routine immunization and maternal and newborn services resumed in many health facilities in provinces 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces. A total of 26,621 children received immunization, 847 pregnant women sought anti natal care and 733 institutional deliveries were conducted from those provinces – more data yet to
UNICEF provided technical support to the Measles Outbreak Response immunization in two municipalities of Dhading and one municipality in Kathmandu covering about 22,000 children (6 months to 15 years). Other outbreak sites are planning their response and UNICEF will continue to provide technical support. Measles outbreaks were reported from seven different parts of the country since the Measles Rubella Supplementary Immunization Activity (MR-SIA) campaign was halted due to ongoing nationwide lockdown.

The Child and adolescent mental health clinic run by Kanti Children Hospital in support of UNICEF provided clinical and psychosocial management support to 68 children (47 boys and 21 girls aged below 18 years) and 49 parents. Issues addressed via teleconsultation include therapeutic treatment with medication on psychiatric services and follow-up services to the clients.

Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) volunteers in 308 municipalities are supporting dissemination of key nutrition messages to caregivers of children under five years of age about breastfeeding and complementary feeding in the context of Covid-19.

The six provinces with activated clusters are leading their respective provincial response activities, which include nutrition service continuity monitoring, nutrition commodity monitoring and transport logistics for distributing essential nutrition supplies to health facilities.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- With UNICEF support, the National Child Rights Council continued monitoring the situation of children in institutions. A total of 2,499 children have been reunited with their families (16 percent of total number of children in institutional care in Nepal). 40 (29 girls) missing children have been traced (27% of missing children reported to the child helpline) and reunification process being considered. A total of 51 unaccompanied children including children in streets were supported with family reintegration or placement in alternative care by the National Child Rights Council.

- UNICEF supported the dissemination of messages on non-violent discipline through social media targeting parents and reached more than 818,000 people with more than 11,000 engagements. These are being relayed through radio and community-based communication channels as well to reach low-tech environments.

- UNICEF supported helplines provided psychosocial support to 373 people (150 females, 222 males, 1 third gender). Guidance on psychosocial first aid in the COVID-19 situation was provided to 508 persons (172 males and 336 females) from humanitarian organizations in Kathmandu (virtual), and college students from Kalikot district (face to face) and 24 psychosocial counsellors (17 males and 17 females). UNICEF partner TPO adapted and translated the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) briefing note on addressing mental health and (MHPSS) aspects of COVID-19 to guide psychosocial interventions.

- UNICEF continued its collaboration with the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development on the production and dissemination of self-learning materials for children in the 4 years from pre-primary to grade 3 without access to internet and/or radio learning. The materials have been uploaded on the government website, and printing instructions have been disseminated to all municipal education authorities throughout local administrations of the country. UNICEF is supporting these efforts by arranging for the distribution of 10,000 self-learning packs to the most disadvantaged children in four provinces.

- Following the global launch of the "Framework for Reopening Schools" produced by UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP and the World Bank, UNICEF Nepal has translated the document into Nepali and disseminated it to government and development partners. The Framework was recently presented at a virtual conference on ‘The Impact of COVID-19 on Education and Future Strategies’ in Sudurpaschim Province. UNICEF is also a member of the task team working to contextualize the Framework and provide recommendations on when and how to reopen schools.

- UNICEF is supporting mapping of ICT access (internet) and overall media access in Karnali and Sudur Paschim Provinces to inform distance education in the region. The preliminary results from Karnali highlight are that only 18% schools have access to the internet, schools with access to television is 10% (national channel) and 7% (local channels), 83% schools with radio Nepal access and 74% schools with access to FM radios. The mapping showed 9% schools with access to none of the media. These findings will be crucial in designing effective approaches to self-learning for students during the current school closure and beyond.

Pakistan Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- An estimated total of 80 million people has been reached with TV and radio through Government, UNICEF and UNDP resources, including the mass media airing of the videos in partnership with UNILEVER, produced by UNICEF in collaboration with MOH and WHO. To intensify the key messages on social distancing, prevention and health seeking behaviour related to COVID-19, UNICEF has provided approved messaging content to Radio Pakistan which is being aired free of cost nationally as well as through 48 FM radio stations reaching millions of people, particularly in rural areas. Digital Pakistan support to the Ministry of Health on social media have reached more than 103,660,958 people this week through their Digital Media platform. UNICEF works closely with Digital Media team. The MoH has released a video promoting key preventative behaviour during Ramadan.

5 Contacts through social media include multiple interactions with the same person.
• Through existing polio alliances and health programme, 24,218 religious leaders (862 new) have been engaged and mobilised to promote risk perception of corona virus, emphasise social distancing, encourage praying at home and to promote key preventive messages on COVID-19. Ramadan specific messages on religious rituals are being disseminated through religious leaders and institutions. UNICEF Pakistan participated in the religious leaders’ conference organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) with support from headquarters, where a senior religious leader from Pakistan was a speaker.

• UNICEF’s Advocacy and Communication and polio social media platforms have reached 51.7 million people through different social media platforms, an increase of 16.8 million people during the reporting period and collectively the Government and UN Agencies have reached 157,433,115 people with social media posts.

• In partnership with ZONG 4G, thousands of people have been reached with key messages on UNICEF’s IEC material (Facebook: 65,979 people have been reached and 1,952 engaged; Twitter: Impressions: 7,499, Engagements: 250 and Instagram: Likes: 143, Comments: 2)

• Polio infrastructure such as helpline, social media hub, Community Based Vaccinators (CBVs) continues to be mobilised for reaching population with key messages on COVID-19, using a combination of channels including WhatsApp, religious leaders’ engagement, mobilization of influencers and celebrities etc.

• A total of 2,447 Journalists, reporters and bloggers continue to be engaged at both federal and provincial level for promoting key messages on COVID-19 and to counter negative media and Corona related myths.

• The Polio helpline (1166) which is being used for COVID-19 has received over 2.6 million calls and responded to a total of 929,612 calls. With the increased capacity of helpline now reaching 250 helpline agents, the helpline is now able to respond to higher number of calls. UNICEF supports the 85 agents and the rest are supported by Digital Pakistan. The average weekly proportion of calls answered now stands at 64.2 per cent of calls.

**Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies**

• UNICEF coordinated with WHO and health department officials in the provinces and conducted a rapid WASH assessment of 266 out of 300 targeted designated isolation and treatment facilities using WASHFIT. The graph below shows the number of HCF which have so far benefitted from WASH, supported by UNICEF in each province:

  To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities in 220 out of the 266 assessed HCFs, including 70 during the reporting period (Sindh: 27, KP: 25, Punjab: 167, Balochistan:1). More than 187,941 people (at least 41,941 new) have used these facilities to date. These facilities will ensure availability of safe drinking water and safe excreta management which will contribute towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among health care workers, currently being reported in the country. UNICEF has provided handwashing stations (HWS) in 138 out of 244 health care facilities to ensure that functional hand hygiene facilities are present for all health care workers at all points of care and in areas where PPE is put on or taken off.

• Over 3.8 million people (1 million new) have been reached with COVID-19 hygiene promotion messages across the four provinces (Sindh: 530,476, KP: 385,981, Punjab: 2,722,477, Baluchistan: 203,378). UNICEF is disseminating hygiene messages through social mobilisers, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), IEC materials displayed on communal Hand Washing Stations and Clean and Green Pakistan digital and social media platforms.

• UNICEF has rolled out the training of sanitary workers on cleaning and disinfection using the approved training modules and to date 3,036 sanitary and frontline workers (342 new) have been trained with UNICEF support (Sindh: 629, Punjab: 1,781, Baluchistan: 626). To address the shortage of quality chlorine products in the country, UNICEF has supported the training of 26 from Government and partners (Punjab-7, KP-7, Sindh-6, Balochistan-6) on local production of chlorine products and 10 production kits were donated to local partners implementing IPC activities in the provinces.

**Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management.**

• UNICEF is supporting the Provincial and Regional health departments to ensure the continuation of essential primary health care services in 136 targeted health facilities reaching 737,555 people with an increase of 35,135 during the reporting period (Baluchistan: 2,141, Sindh: 31,516, KP: 1,478). UNICEF continues to support routine immunisation and a total of 16,707 children (under 1 year) have been vaccinated against measles, an increase of 5,421 children (Baluchistan: 544, Punjab: 3,494, KP:1,034 and Sindh: 349) during the reporting period.

• In Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan, UNICEF supported training of a total 3,863 frontline health workers, 693 during this reporting period on IPC and also supported training of 12,521 frontline health workers and community volunteers (1,036 during this week) on COVID-19 and identification and referral of suspected cases. UNICEF is also supporting the provision of PPEs (gloves, sanitisers and masks) and a total 11,278 frontline health workers of targeted health facilities have received basic PPEs including 9,153 during the reporting week.

• In KP, UNICEF is supporting telemedicine services through an implementing partner to focus the MNCH needs of mothers and children. So far, a total of 584 women and children have benefited from this service, which included 110 diarrhoea and 62 Acute Respiratory Infection patients under the age of 5 years. Similarly, 45 pregnant women received advice on ANC.

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6 Contacts through social media include multiple interactions with the same person
7 Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool by WHO
At the national level, UNICEF is promoting optimal breastfeeding and adequate age-appropriate IYCF practices using communication products (leaflets, radio spots and three short videos for social media) developed and approved jointly with MoNHSR&C which are disseminated through social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Over 23.4 million people were reached with more than 21 million viewers reached through Facebook alone.

A total of 2,740 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment sites were operational countrywide, a decrease of 12 during the reporting period due to the temporary closure of 12 health facilities. The service uptake continues to be compromised by movement restrictions. A total of 18,076 SAM children have been admitted for treatment, of which 4,326 were reached during the reporting period (KP 1,891; Balochistan: 1,460; Punjab 501 and Sindh: 474);

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- A total of 67,094 School Management Committee/Parent Teachers Committee (SMC/PTCs) members, teachers and education personnel were directly reached with COVID-19 prevention messages via SMS and other social media platforms during the reporting period, taking the total to 1.3 million.
- Targeted messages on the importance of education, including short video messages on mathematics, science and English, have reached a total of 13,075 parents and PTCMC (Parent Teacher School Management Committee) members, including 1,166 during this reporting period.
- With UNICEF’s support, a total of 25,076 children are benefitting from alternative learning platforms (Sindh ALPs and Baluchistan “My Home My School”), with 2,508 children reached during this reporting period through Baluchistan Education Department’s campaign “My Home My School”. A total of 506 teachers have been trained on psychosocial support and safe reopening of schools, with 74 teachers trained during this reporting period.
- A total of 959 social workforce professionals (467 women and 492 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through package developed by UNICEF, including 159 trained in this reporting period (Punjab: 16, Baluchistan: 15, KP: 83, Sindh: 45).
- A total of 4,760 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (340 girls, 279 boys, 2,057 women, 2,084 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP and Sindh provinces, of which 818 received training during the reporting period (Punjab: 696, KP: 51, Sindh: 71) including 62 individuals (16 women and 46 men) who received specialized PSS services.
- Within the reporting period stigma prevention messages on various platforms reached to 1.7 million people and engaged 5,263 users, with a cumulative reach of 3.7 million people engaging 63,686 users.

Sri Lanka Country Office;
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF, in support of Health Promotion Bureau, launched a post-curfew media campaign on 9 May. The campaign which entails a series of animated videos, will focus on behaviours required to manage COVID-19 once curfew is lifted. UNICEF funded the rollout of the campaign on national TV to ensure mass reach in line with relaxation of curfew restrictions in most parts of the country on 11 May. The campaign will run 1 week from Saturday 9 May on national media.
- Campaign involves a collection of 6 animated clips. Four clips were released on Saturday focusing on COVID-19 preventive measures to be taken within an office, home, grocery store and public transport environment.
- The film featuring the Prime Minister’s engagement with children gained a unique reach of over 3.5 million, with over 5.2 million content views and over 1.1 million video views.

Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

- With the increase in the number of cases of COVID 19, the Ministry of Health (MoH) is focusing on establishing more and more isolation facilities in all the Provinces and Districts in the country. UNICEF technically supports the MoH to identify requirements to establish isolation facilities in the Provinces and Districts along with the Provincial Directors and Regional Directors.
- With UNICEF’s financial and technical support, the construction of isolation facilities at Lady Ridgeway Children’s Hospital, Castle Street Hospital and Base Hospital Minuwandaga is ongoing.
- Together with the London Stock Exchange Group, UNICEF supports the MoH to upgrade the Base Hospital in Kathakudu as a COVID 19 isolation hospital by establishing essential WASH and infection prevention control facilities.
- UNICEF and the London Stock Exchange Group provided a Neonatal Ventilator and an Adult Ventilator to the Family Health Bureau to strengthen Intensive Care Facilities in one of the hospitals providing care for COVID 19 maternal and neonatal patients.

Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

- UNICEF together with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services has reached 2,017 children in childcare homes with risk communication messages to-date.
- During last week, 6 children without parental or family care were provided with appropriate alternative care support, bringing the total supported children to 38. In addition, 28 Children in certified schools has already
reunified with their families in Northern province. With the support of social service work force, monitoring mechanism was established to continuously monitor the situation of children recently reunified with their families in Batticaloa district.

- A total of 512 children, parents and primary caregivers were supported with psychosocial first aid and counselling during the week bringing the total reach to 1,712 to-date.

Funding Status

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Next SitRep: 21st May 2020
UNICEF continues to monitor the situation very closely and situation reports will be issued on regular basis as the developments unfold.

Internal and External Media


UNICEF Videos on Breastfeeding during COVID-19;
- Should I breastfeed if I am sick and show symptoms of COVID19?
- Should I still be breastfeeding my baby during the COVID19 pandemic?
- What should I do if I am too unwell to breastfeed my baby?

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