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Reporting Period: 21-28 May 2020

# UNICEF in South Asia

## COVID-19 Situation Report No.12



### Highlights

- During the reporting week South Asia region recorded a total of 86,984 new cases with the cumulative total reaching 287,300 confirmed cases and 6,837 deaths. This represents a 43% increase compared to last week with Nepal recording the highest percentage increase (134%). India reported 53,440 new cases, Pakistan added 15,937 new cases, Bangladesh 11,810 new cases, and Afghanistan 4,360 new cases.
- An estimated 10 million people including children were affected by Super Cyclone Amphan which caused deaths and significant destruction to livelihoods, homes and basic infrastructure and displacement of over 100,000 people in some parts of Bangladesh and India. In the context of COVID-19 provision of adequate shelter for the displaced while maintaining physical distance is a major challenge.
- In its ongoing COVID-19 response in all countries in the region, UNICEF and partners have reached 356,820 people including children (33% of the target) with community based mental health and psychosocial support.
- An estimated 100 million people (88% of the target) have been engaged through risk communication and community engagement using various platforms and networks across the region.
- UNICEF and partners have reached 10.6 million people (46% of the target) with critical WASH services and supplies as part of infection prevention control.
- A total of 1.4 million health care providers have been trained to detect, refer and manage COVID-19 cases in children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- In collaboration with governments and partners, UNICEF has reached 7.3 million women and children with essential health care services including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and gender based violence services in UNICEF supported facilities.

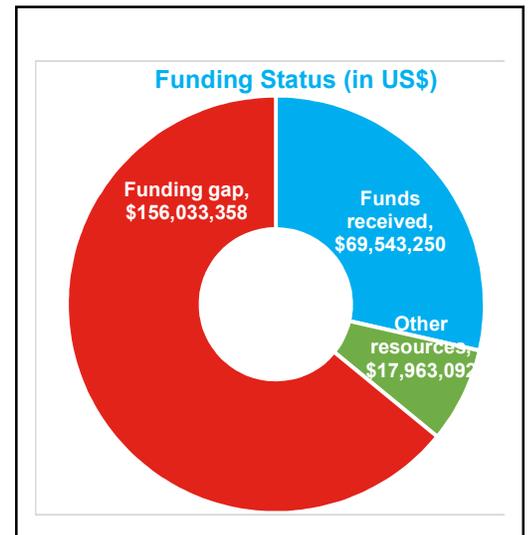
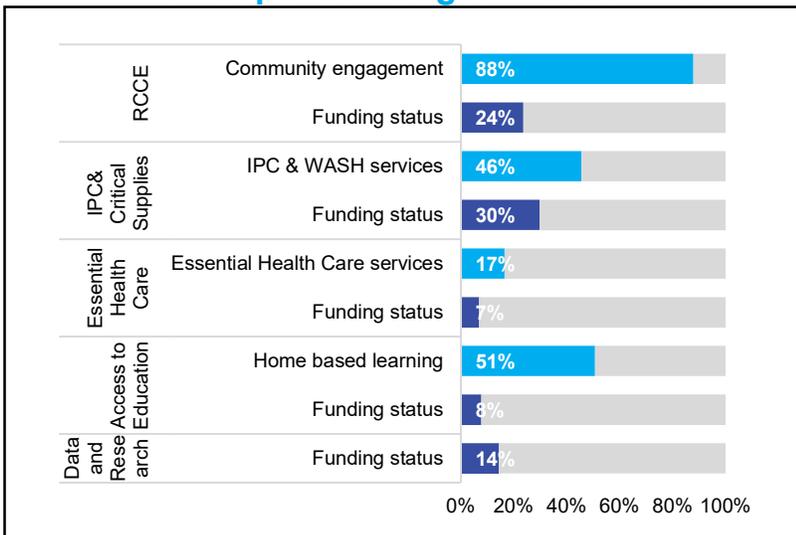
### Situation in Numbers

- 86,984**  
No. of new cases over the past week (SAARC DMC May 28, 2020)
- 287,300**  
Total cases of COVID-19 19 (SAARC DMC May 28, 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

### UNICEF Appeal 2020 For South Asia

**US\$ 243.5 million**

### UNICEF's Response Budget in South Asia

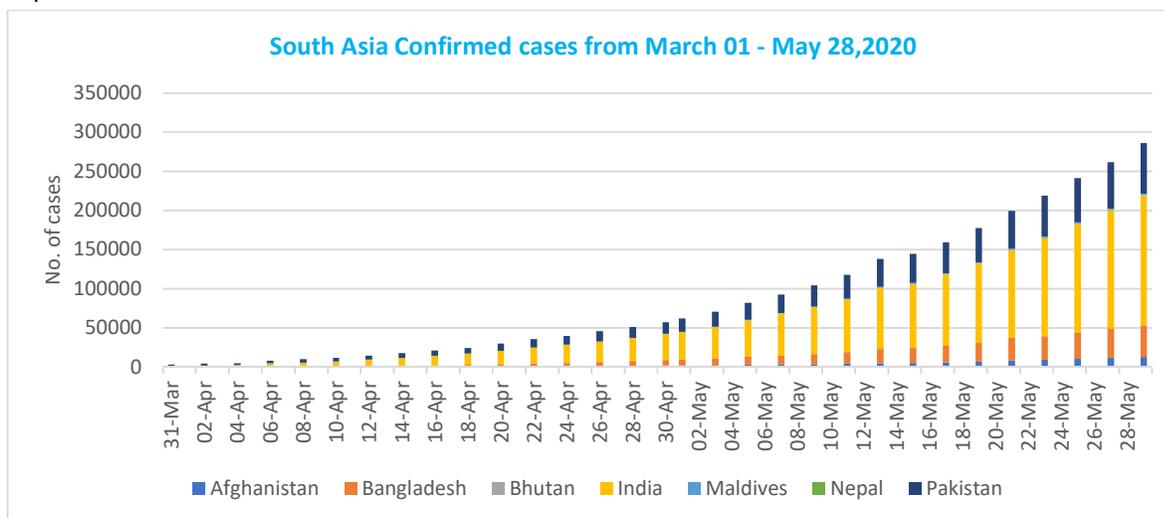


## Funding Overview and Partnerships

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-19 in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received \$69.5 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, Unilever and USAID. In this COVID-19 response, partnership with IFIs has substantially increased, with all country offices in the region benefitting from the generous contribution of the banks to support government responses. 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 86,984 new cases during the reporting week with the cumulative total reaching 287,300 and 6,837 deaths. This represents a 43% increase compared to last week with Nepal recording the highest percentage increase (134%) while India reported 53,440 new cases, Pakistan added 15,937 new cases, Bangladesh 11,810 new cases, Afghanistan 4,360 new cases, 502 new cases in Sri Lanka and 327 new cases in Maldives as shown in the figure below. In the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh, the number of cases has also increased to 29 cases. UNICEF is concerned about the social economic impact of the COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children. According to a recent UNICEF report,<sup>1</sup> in Afghanistan, it is estimated that 11.9 million people could be pushed to food security deprivation which could increase the incidence of multidimensional poverty could rise from 51.7% to 61.4%. Similarly, the number of out of school children aged between 6-18 years old could rise from 5.6 million to 9.7 million due to the impact of COVID-19.



Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps<sup>2</sup> and SAARC Disaster Management Centre<sup>3</sup>

## 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-19-2019 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.

<sup>1</sup> "The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in Afghanistan: Microsimulation of effects on multidimensional poverty," April 2020

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.COVID-1919-sdmc.org/>

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**

- With cases almost doubling over the past week and spreading across all the provinces in the country, UNICEF and partners continue to implement a media campaign with 167 local channels and other media platforms. During the reporting week UNICEF continued to amplify the voices of children across media channels, including social media, Radio Free Europe (RFE), and TV, reaching a total of 2,809,701 people while engaging 59,438 people. Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF and partners have reached over 10 million people (100% of its target) with risk communication messages on COVID-19. However, with the continued spread of the disease, UNICEF and partners have intensified media campaigns and engagements to reach an additional 6 million people.
- During the reporting week 2118 people including 200 religious leaders and 1918 community health workers, community health supervisors and mobile health and nutrition team members/counselors were mobilized and orientated on COVID-19, to disseminate preventative messages to some 354,500 individuals in the community.

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

- As part of infection prevention control, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, handwashing facilities and hygiene supplies continues to be a high priority for UNICEF. WASH upgrading in health care facilities and returnee points from neighboring countries, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in formal and informal sites, urban slum dwellers, childcare centers and other public/religious institutions is of priority.
- During the reporting period a total of 60 hand washing facilities were installed in 31 health care centers in Kabul, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Ghazni and Maidan Wardak provinces. Over 10,000 returnees benefitted from WASH facilities and services installed at Melak border in Nimroz province and Islam Qala border in Herat during the reporting period. In addition, 45,827 people including 3370 IDPs and 4000 children benefitted from hygiene promotion and distribution of soap conducted in Herat, Badghis, Balkh provinces. Thus far, 430,420 people (84% of the target) have benefitted from UNICEF supported WASH supply and services such as hand washing facilities established or refurbished in high risk locations in Herat, Kabul and other 12 provinces.

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

- With continued decrease in access to health services due to COVID-19 the role of mobile health and nutrition teams in providing services to bridge the gaps and responding to the COVID-19 is very critical. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported 60 mobile health and nutrition teams in 14 provinces, continued to provide critical services including screening of 273 COVID-19 suspected cases that were referred for testing and confirmation.
- The polio immunization network visited 145,271 households across the South Region on COVID-19 related engagements. A total of 136,073 women and children have benefitted from obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services and nutrition services through mobile clinics.
- At the health facility level, 784 community health workers from central province and Kandahar province were trained on COVID-19 to strengthen capacity at local level. Similarly, Female Mobilizer Vaccinators conducted 614 sessions and engaged 10,979 participants (98% of whom were females) and referred 240 suspected cases of COVID-19 for further investigations.

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

- During the reporting period, 4,698 children (girls: 2,246, boys: 2,452) received psychosocial support to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience and normalcy. In addition, 152 (girls: 82, boys: 70) without parental care including returnees were provided with interim care and psychosocial support.

## **Bangladesh Country Office**

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- With over 2.4 million evacuated and 100,000 people displaced due to Cyclone Amphan, this week messages focused on combined messaging on COVID-19 and the Cyclone Amphan, including cough etiquette, wearing a mask, hand washing and toilet cleanliness. UNICEF working with District Coordinators and other Pillar members

amplified these messages in the coastal areas through loudspeaker and community radio. In Cox Bazaar, UNICEF, reached 254,378 people with mosque-based messages and through Community Radio Naf 99.2 FM in camps. Interpersonal communication, radio clubs and religious study groups also continued. Phased messaging continues in the camps, with an increased focus on effective rumour tracking, as confirmed cases are being reported in the camps, along with messages on Ramadan and social distancing.

- Mosque messaging: Trained Imams from 238,000 mosques have been disseminating COVID-19 messages through Khutbah Sermons, as part of Friday prayer as well as interacting with the people coming to the mosques. According to field staff from the Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh, mosques are following the directives circulated by the government to ensure distancing in seating arrangements, wearing of masks, bringing personal prayer mats and installation of handwashing facilities at entrances.
- During the reporting period, interactive programmes through Bangladesh Betar reached over 600,000 people including children and adolescents with COVID-19 messages. Community radio stations, meanwhile, reached over seven million marginalized people, as did local cable TV. A three-minute audio-visual piece was also shared showing the commitment of service providers in COVID-19 response, aiming to motivate them in their work. In addition, 700,00 people were reached through traditional media such as public service announcements on leading state TV channel BTV, including one on [combatting stigma](#); and Meena live call-in shows on state radio Betar.
- The fourth episode of the UNICEF LIVE “Adda” series focused on [staying safe in densely populated communities](#) and included a segment on spending Eid at home; [4-year-old Aritri stays at home and makes banana bread](#) is the week’s top performing video (8.4 million views); and a [slideshow video](#) on nutritious foods boost children’s immunity against illnesses (7.6 million reach).
- Over the past week, 22.3 million unique users were reached, with 3.9 million unique users engaged and 10 million video views. In total, posts were seen 158 million times. Highlights include posts on [encouraging mothers to contact their doctor over phone](#) to find out the safest way to get health care (4.7 million reach); [parenting and children’s mental health](#) (6.8 million reach); [stigma and discrimination faced by patients](#) (6.6 million reach).
- Messages on complementary feeding practices along with cautions on the risk of [breast milk substitute](#) in the COVID-19 context reached more than 5.5 million viewers. The messages focused on the necessary hygiene to protect from COVID-19 and food groups that boost the immune system of young children [keeping them healthy and protecting from infection](#).
- UNICEF received 20 complaints, 105 comments and 521 queries about COVID-19 from 109 male and 98 female visitors to 14 Information and Feedback Centres (IFCs) in camps. These have focused on COVID-19 symptoms, referrals and services related to health and WASH.
- So far 50.4 million people (58% of the target) have been reached using different platforms with COVID-19 messages. While the overall awareness levels on COVID-19 were very high at 98%, the awareness level among respondents with no education was significantly lower (76.7%); less than 42% were aware of how the disease is transmitted, 50% were aware of the symptoms and 57% were aware of measures to prevent the disease.

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

- This week, 111 health service providers (88 female) working in UNICEF-assisted health programmes participated in online training on IPC. By mid-May, 1,452 health service providers in total have been trained among the targeted 2,000 staff. In addition, 43 doctors and 10 nurses from two COVID-19-designated hospitals in Dhaka City participated in ‘National IPC training for COVID-19 management’. IPC training for 2,000 newly recruited doctors and 5,000 newly recruited nurses is ongoing with technical support from UNICEF. These health workers will be assigned to health facilities across the country. In addition, four doctors (3 females) from PHD received training on clinical case management of COVID-19 facilitated by WHO. They will subsequently share this knowledge internally with staff doctors in UNICEF-supported facilities.
- During the reporting period 491,000 people (285,026 women) were reached with UNICEF-supported WASH interventions including the repair of 6,308 handpumps, chlorination of 106 piped water systems, distribution of 119,411 bars of soap and construction of 914 handwashing devices in public places by Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and UNICEF. An uninterrupted water supply has been ensured for a total of 3.44 million people (out of a 10-million-person target) directly reached by UNICEF-supported WASH services since March. In addition, UNICEF partners disinfected 3401 water points, tube wells, tanks and reservoirs along with 4,801 latrines and bathing facilities during the reporting period. New extensions of the water network came online this week, benefiting 10,343 individuals in eight Rohingya refugee camps, and allowing improved IPC compliance.
- Construction of the Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centre (SARI ITC) has been delayed by the cyclone and the oncoming Eid celebrations. Supplies for the Phase 1 (30 beds) have been received and those for Phase 2 (88 beds) are expected by mid-June, at which point the SARI-ITC is expected to be operational. The total capacity of the SARI ITC is going to be 200 beds.

- During the reporting period, 51,836 community members participated in hygiene promotion activities for COVID-19 prevention this week while 1,433 Rohingya community members were trained on IPC including members of water and latrine user groups, hygiene promotion volunteers, teachers, Majhis and imams. The arrival of COVID-19 to the camps has raised additional concerns, with Rohingya refugees participating in the WASH and COVID-19 response requesting personal protective equipment.

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

- To ensure continued access to nutrition services, UNICEF has dispatched and prepositioned lifesaving food and nutrition kits to treat 3,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). RapidPro has been used to track and validate the delivery of the supplies. Fifty-two per cent of SAM focal points from these facilities responded through RapidPro SMS to confirm the receipt of the supplies.
- During the reporting period 1,125 children (629 female) at risk of acute malnutrition were referred to integrated nutrition facilities (INFs) this week, including 159 children by some of the 8,539 mothers and adolescents trained in the use of MUAC (Mother-Led MUAC: MLM). In the past week, 138 children with SAM (98 female) were admitted for treatment in the camps and two (no female) from the host community.

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

- Since March 29, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME) and Ministry of Education (MOE) with the technical support from Access to Information (a2i) has been launching various platforms (TV, internet, mobile phones and radio) to facilitate the learning continuity of children while they are at home. Monitoring the access to and the quality of remote learning activities remains a challenge. So far UNICEF and partners has reached 14.3 million children, and adolescent boys and girls (60% of the target) with homebased/online learning. In a survey of 11,013 Rohingya refugees (29 per cent female) from 32 camps, 77 per cent of respondents said their children are engaged in home-based learning. Eighty per cent of the respondents said children are studying by themselves and 73 per cent are supported by the siblings.
- Similarly, the government of Bangladesh has formed a research and monitoring working group comprised of a2i, MOPME, MOE, NGOs and development partners. to generate evidence to improve the delivery and the quality of remote teaching and learning targeted at 41.89 million school children: UNICEF helped conduct a virtual case management training for 67 of the planned 3,000 social workers and psychosocial counsellors. The training covered areas of strengthening referral pathways for cases received from Child Helpline (child marriage, child exploitation and abuse, GBV) and other child help desks across the country. Translation of Social Work Case Management Guidance has been completed and circulated across the workforce reaching more than 3,000 government social workers.
- Through UNICEF support, virtual children's courts were conducted by district government officials. This week, 247 children were granted bail. UNICEF supported the reintegration of 174 children (9 girls) where it was safe for them to be reunited with their families and provided psychosocial support to the children and their families. The remaining 73 children remain in the detention centres until their safety can be assured. UNICEF continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of Law for both virtual courts and reintegration of children, including working to identify all children in detention in the country, who number over 1,000.
- UNICEF and its partners are trying to address mental health issues and psychosocial programming for children to help them cope with the increased in distress associated with the COVID-19 situation. This week, 7,529 beneficiaries (3,630 females) were reached with psychosocial support while positive parenting messages were provided to 2,416 parents and caregivers (1,155 females) and GBV risk prevention messages for 1,115 individuals (722 females).

### Bhutan Country Office

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Approximately 350,000 people (300,000 in last report) were reached with messages on COVID-19 prevention and containment and access to services through engagement of influential persons and volunteer groups including district health officials, school health coordinators, local leaders, *Desuung* volunteers, religious persons, youth volunteers and CSOs.
- To further enhance public awareness and understanding on COVID-19 and related concerns around mental health, accessing regular maternal and child health services, UNICEF supported the Health Ministry in development and distribution of more than 20 different information and communication materials and supported distribution of more than 300,000 copies of these communication materials.
- 10 managers from different Youth Service Centers across the country were sensitized on COVID-19 preventive and containment and related messages. The Center managers will be conducting similar sessions with youth volunteers in their respective centers and mobilizing them for engaging family members and neighbors in their own locality.

- Continue posting #COVID19STORIES - Since the campaign was launched on April 9, the CO has posted more than 60 stories from children as young as eight-year-old, young people and those above 24 years. The campaign has received more than 200 stories so far including videos from young people from across the country and abroad.
- UNICEF supports the #COVID-19STORIES campaign, engaging young people during the pandemic and to provide them a platform to share their experiences. Through their stories, children and young people are advocating and spreading prevention messages such as handwashing, coughing etiquettes and physical distancing. Their stories, shared also by health workers and *desuups*, are supporting UNICEF to reach and engage more people with prevention and support services messages.
- #EarlyLearningFromHome campaign, where ECCD facilitators share their stories of how they are reaching out to preschoolers are among the best performing posts since the campaign was launched on May 10. These stories shared every alternate day lead up to the parenting month, which begins next month.

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

- In coordination with Ministry of Education and Religion and Health Project of Central Monastic Body, UNICEF is promoting good hygiene practices including distribution of soap. A total of 30,000 bars of soap have been distributed to 552 schools and 90 monastic institutions (81 monastic schools and 9 nunneries) is ongoing. The soap is expected to immediately benefit 7015 (6571 monks and 444 nuns) and another 138,699 (69,012 girls and 69,687 boys) school children once schools reopen.
- A pamphlet on nutrition and hygiene practices has been developed for distribution to school children with the take-home ration of school feeding programme which was finalized in collaboration with WFP. The Take Home Ration of School Feeding Programme will reach about 10,000 needy children with 10,000 soaps and posters on steps of handwashing along with the nutrition pamphlet.

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

- To ensure continuous delivery of essential health services, adequate stock of all traditional vaccines for children for the next 12 months have been secured with the receipt of the following vaccines (BCG: 3,800 vials, MMR: 13,600 vials, DTP: 3,400 vials, 4.Hep.B (Paediatric): 3,900 vials, Td: 2,500 vials). It has been a great challenge to ensure no stockout of vaccines with the MMR vaccine expected to last only until end of May 2020, and the delivery of supplies ordered in early February and March delayed due to disruption of international flights as a result of COVID-19.

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

- 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 copies of parenting support booklets printed in Dzongkha (national language) and English for distribution to children and their families. So far, 153,000 out of the targeted 170,263 students have been reached with home based or online learning. Since the remaining 17,000 children who live in remote areas could not access the lessons broadcasted on the Television, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to print, distribute and orient teachers and parents on the use of self -instruction materials. While the introduction of Self-instruction materials has been welcomed by many children and their parents, it was found to be difficult for children in lower classes without educated family members to help them understand the content.
- In terms of online and virtual learning, Google Classroom was found to be expensive as it consumed too much data and posed additional pressure on parents. Moreover, children also started using the opportunity to surf other non-educational content which raises the concern of online safety. The Bhutan Telecom and Tashicell, the two mobile service providers have started providing children 60% free data to facilitate access online learning.
- In order to ensure continuity of learning and support for pre-school children, ECCD facilitators are using the Parenting Education Manual which has been distributed with UNICEF support, as the basis for sharing resources on how to support home-based learning. Given that the most feasible way to support parents with young children is through mobile phone applications like WeChat, ECCD facilitators face challenges in supporting parents who do not have smart phones as this hampers monitoring of learning progress of children, and especially in cases where the children live too far away to make home visits.
- In terms of access to service, 173 children (76 boys and 97 girls) and 75 (39 male and 36 female) adults have been referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided with counselling services through the Sherig Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Six youth center managers were oriented this week on facilitating virtual training on the safe use of internet and social media. The training planned from 30 May to 20 June will equip 600 children and adolescents across 20 districts with knowledge, skills, confidence and attitude to learn safely with digital tools.

## India Country Office

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF support to MoHFW continued, to coordinate National anti-stigma and discrimination campaign with UN agencies and development partners. To date, RCCE interventions motivated a couple of state ministers in Odisha, demonstrate their support in public against stigma around COVID-19 and reached 850 high level representatives of state government, religious leaders and over 5 million people through advocacy, capacity building and established social partnership for change initiatives in 9 states.
- Social media reach was 195,282,846. Content about COVID-19 appeared on social media feeds about 32 million times on average every day during this seven-day period and was seen by 27.9 million on average per day. Overall COVID-19 campaign cumulative reach (3 March - 23 May) is 865,069,109. Media reach with UNICEF mentions on COVID-19: 106 million and Non-UNICEF mentions on COVID-19 (women and children): 63.6 million.
- UNICEF offices in multiple states (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, UP, Bihar etc. engaged new people through RCCE. Majority of the states have engaged the frontline workers (FLWs) trained earlier on COVID-19 IPC to engage in various activities within their communities.
- In Gujarat, UNICEF supported engagement with the local Muslim leaders and community influencers towards RCCE in high risk zones, that included social distancing, use of mask and cluster containment protocols during Ramzan.
- COVID-19 Academy has conducted 39 sessions (30 English, 4 Hindi, 5 panel discussions) as on 22nd May 2020 with 44,293 total participants. Session were delivered by resource persons from 60 organizations/institutions.

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

- UNICEF is prioritizing the establishment of IPC measures in health facilities and affected communities through provision of supplies and information to influence practices.
- UNICEF offices in different States (including Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Odisha) have continued to provide WASH services and supplies such as soaps, masks, and hygiene kits in partnership with government, NGO and CSRs reaching over 1.5 million people cumulatively (87 % of the target)
- UNICEF offices in multiple states (West Bengal, Rajasthan, AP, Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, UP, Tamil Nadu etc.) have conducted training of FLWs, that included resource persons from partner organizations, caregivers of village quarantine centers, Swachhgrahis, District coordinators, teachers, district level officials and PRI members. Bihar oriented managers & supervisors of the Combined Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) in partnership with the State Pollution Control Board, specifically on solid waste and biomedical waste management. So far 1.4 million people have been trained out of the targeted 1.5 million people.
- UNICEF Jharkhand Office has also established partnership with Rotary, Jharkhand, to build handwashing stations in schools as part of safe school protocol.
- UNICEF State offices in Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have engaged in advocacy with government on planning for Jal Jeevan Mission Annual action plan and provisioning of funds (GPDP, 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Grant); in providing foot operated hand wash stations, incinerators for safe disposal of sanitary napkins, tippy taps, etc.

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

- UNICEF along with WHO continue to provide technical support to strengthen national and state governments capacity for continuous delivery of essential services safely. This includes the development of guidelines and production of social and behaviour change (SBCC) tools and materials on healthy eating and breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19, and training of health workers.
- Over the reporting period, various training sessions were conducted via the COVID-19 Academy that ensured participation of from frontlines (nurses, midwives, administrators, and field office staff) for sessions on KMC; and Special Newborn Care during COVID-19. Additional Capacity building sessions were facilitated on immunization, ANC, perinatal care for state health functionaries for MNCH service continuity. Cumulatively, 1.3 million people have been trained (88 % of the target) since March.
- In Gujarat, over 560 mothers sensitized on Kangaroo Mother Care and breast feeding on 'International KMC Awareness Day' which was observed on 15<sup>th</sup> May. In Jharkhand over 287 District and block officials and front-line workers reviewed trends in IFA supplementation coverage, reporting status and stock availability. Many districts have now restarted distributing IFA to adolescents' girls.

- In Uttar Pradesh over 400 staff of nutrition rehabilitation centers participated in a webinar on SAM management protocols during COVID-19 to ensure continuity of facility-based care. In Gujarat about 3,500 migrant children and women in 2 aspirational districts were linked with child development services.

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

- To provide a better learning environment for children, UNICEF along with its partners is supporting the government to implement several education initiatives to enable children to continue home based or online learning. These include online classrooms and radio programmes. An estimated 29.4 million children have been reached in 16 states with home based and online learning.
- UNICEF in India coordinated the inputs from education and other sector colleagues along with regional office and provided feedback on the guidance document on reopening of Schools. The official guidelines on reopening of schools is likely to be released later in this week. UNICEF states such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, MP, UP and other states have oriented school staff through multiple platforms on school readiness plan. Jharkhand and West Bengal have developed SOPs on safe school protocol which are shared with respective education departments.
- UNICEF continues to provide support in reaching parents, teachers and SMC members on risk reduction communication messages including messages related to psychosocial support, responsive parenting, and personal safety of online digital content.
- UNICEF is supporting state governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Uttar Pradesh to provide safety net schemes to the most vulnerable groups. A total of 12,044 migrant labourers' families have been identified and being supported in getting access to relevant schemes from Labour Department. Gujarat has prepared an Information pack for migrants returning home from the three urban hotspots in the state. In Madhya Pradesh, UNICEF, Awaaj (CSO), People's Medical College and Indian Medical Association (IMA) reached a total of about 60,000 migrant population (20% women and 5% children) with relief support. Food, water, medical support, psycho-social support, handwashing assistance was provided at the site. Youth volunteers from NSS were also mobilized and trained to provide on ground support. A total of 740,217 adolescents and young people were reached across 17 states with targeted messages and information on prevention of COVID-19.
- In Maharashtra, rapid assessment report "Surviving under stress: a report on child sexual abuse victims and families in lockdown" was designed as part of a joint collaboration with the Department of Women and Children and, Aarambh Foundation to support victims of child sexual abuse. The report highlights a significant proportion of families have not been able to access any form of government or non-governmental support or aid and are in heightened state of physical and psychological distress. Follow up actions are being undertaken in partnership with local authorities, to identify the needs of victims of child sexual abuse during lockdown and to ensure that these are met.
- UNICEF continues to strengthen interventions in Childcare Institutes (CCIs) across the country to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the children placed in the CCIs. Jammu & Kashmir has initiated a Rapid Assessment on Impact of COVID-19 on Children with a focus on CCIs. UNICEF in Assam is helping State Child Protection Society (SCPS) to institute an online mechanism to track the safety and security of children sent home on bail.

#### Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- Assessments have been conducted by UNICEF state offices to understand the implementation of social protection measures by the state governments. Policy feedback loops have been created from these assessments to influence implementation of social protection schemes. An assessment was undertaken by Chhattisgarh, to identify COVID-19 related needs of migrant workers at transit points, to enable UNICEF to develop its response plan.
- Local administration and gram panchayats are being utilized as a crucial tool in delivery and monitoring of social protection programmes by UNICEF. For example, in Madhya Pradesh, a large-scale capacity development programme is adopting a cascading approach to reach out to 22,000 Gram Panchayats, 286,000 field functionaries, and 250,000 self-help groups (SHGs) involved in the delivery of time-critical and life-saving relief services including social protection services. In Assam and Maharashtra, capacity development packages for local elected representatives have been created for planning and monitoring with focus on social protection schemes (particularly MGNREGA, NSAP) and establishing linkages with vulnerable households and support.
- UNICEF in Kerala has been engaged in development of the report on "Economic and Fiscal Shock of COVID-19 in Kerala: Socio Economic Response and Macroeconomic Recovery" which has now been submitted to the government leadership. A report on estimating the human cost of the COVID-19 lockdown in Maharashtra has been submitted to the Government of Maharashtra for designing the State's economic revival strategy. Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a high-level committee to advise on the medium-term response to COVID-19 and UNICEF is a part of this committee.

- UNICEF coordinated the humanitarian response to migrants in and around Mumbai served over 59,000 people as of 23<sup>rd</sup> May with the help of the Jeevan Rath, a collaborative platform of 40 partners and 200 volunteers, supported food, hand hygiene materials, sanitary napkins, footwear, water, basic medical support, etc.

## **Maldives Country Office**

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Key messages around the expected easing of the greater Male' lockdown measures on 28<sup>th</sup> May was the focus in the reporting period as well as preventing child abuse and domestic violence that can increase with families having to live in cramped households for an extended period. These messages were made available multi-lingual focusing on engaging the public to continue to stay safe at home, practice good personal hygiene and wearing a mask if they must go outside.
- During the current reporting period, UNICEF and HPA reached 213,560 people via its Facebook channel (as the preferred social media channel in the country with the highest number of active users). The cumulative reach through UNICEF messaging as well as those disseminated through the HPA their social media channels (multiple platforms) reached 100% of the target with some being reached more than 100 times (41,857,709). This is the cumulative figure as of week 12 of the emergency response.
- To encourage information-seeking behaviours in key audiences, both UNICEF and HPA websites provides Dhivehi language articles, videos and resources around COVID-19, making reliable and up-to-date information available to families. During the reporting period users spent an average 6.49 minutes on COVID-19 content and 190 page-views were recorded. Publicly visible engagements from Facebook for UNICEF and partners were monitored and in the reporting period, UNICEF Facebook page observed, 987 post reactions, 9 comments, 22 post saves, 110 post shares and 1,547 link clicks.
- Through both the emergency hotline 1676 and email address, the public has been able to share their concerns as well as seek clarifications in regard to emergency treatment and information on services. During the reporting period 5,645 people were able to seek assistance from the government through this hotline.

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

- A total of 1,144 teachers are currently undergoing training in Google G-Suite with UNICEF support. A total of 95 teachers have been trained in G-Suite since the start of the intervention in April 2020.
- A total of 2,775 students (1,304 females and 1,471 males) continued learning through Google Classroom, facilitated by the G-suite trained teachers. Out of the total of 2,775 students, 2,681 students were enrolled in the island schools and 94 students were enrolled in schools in the capital Male'.
- The DV/GBV hotline 1421 has been established and operational in the reporting period with support from UNICEF. 4,715 calls received through the 1421 DV/GBV hotline, but however, most cases – 3,161 were calls from general public stranded in Male' due to the lockdown requesting assistance to travel back to the islands, while 582 requested assistance in accommodation, 721 requesting for food, 8 seeking social protection support, 6 requiring assistance due to substance abuse, while 230 plus cases related to shopping to clearing of garbage.
- UNICEF, providing on-going support for technical supervision of social workers at the Family and Child Protection Department / Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to strengthen their capacity to respond to the cases of violence.
- UNICEF continued discussion on strengthening the MHPSS services, while confirmation has been received from RCO that funds from the MPTF for mental health have been confirmed.
- UNICEF continues its support to Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to strength the call center (hotline 1421) and the capacity of the social workers, however thus far a limited number of callers are in fact related to domestic violence. More efforts to strengthen communication and outreach around the hotline will be made in the coming weeks.

## **Nepal Country Office**

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Over the past week, UNICEF reached 26.3 million people with more than 25 messages related to COVID-19, through UNICEF Nepal's social media platforms. The top-performing posts included a video message by Ayusha Shakya, a national taekwondo player and gold medal winner at the South Asian Games, providing practical tips on mental wellbeing during COVID-19, and a poem by a young boy for the #ChildrenSpeak campaign.
- During the week, a further 6 million people (53 percent female and 47 percent male) were reached through radio and television with information about: COVID-19 testing facilities, the importance of having people returning from abroad and COVID-19 hot spots stay in quarantine or isolation, and the role of health workers and frontline workers in the treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

- UNICEF, in collaboration with UNDP, WHO, UNV and the Resident Coordinator's Offices in Nepal, engaged over 100 young volunteers through an online session on coping with mental health issues during the COVID-19. They also spoke out about the need to address the specific issues of marginalized groups, including young people with disability and those from the LGBTIQ community. Initial results of a post-webinar survey show that all respondents found the webinar helpful and more than 90 per cent learned something new about taking care of their mental health.
- As part of the new focus on B4R, UNICEF signed its first Contribution in Kind agreement with a private sector entity. The company, Yeti Airlines, has begun distributing critical supplies, beginning with transporting over 800 kilos of relief supplies to UNICEF's Nepalgunj field office. The company will be disseminating UNICEF's COVID-1919 related messages through its social media network which has over 260,000 followers.
- Following on from the success of the video of by the student who recovered from COVID-1919 (reached 4.3 million people and received 2.3 million views), a dedicated page is being developed on the UNICEF Nepal website to house messages and videos showing positive modelling of people who are sharing messages of unity, appreciation and empathy to counteract stigmatization. This will be under the theme of the global campaign, One Love. User-generated content will be curated and shared via this platform and via social media.

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

- UNICEF reached approximately 3,500 people with the installation of 44 handwashing station in 13 Health Care Facilities In addition critical supplies reached about 500 people in the same 13 health care facilities (385 people) and 2 quarantine centers (125 people). These included 125 hygiene kits, 550 soap bars (32 bottles of hand sanitizers 80 buckets (30 mugs 600 mask and 700 gloves).
- UNICEF reached an estimated 3,000 people with WASH specific targeted messages on COVID-19 prevention through Information, Education & Communication materials and display of messages in public places, mainly placed at hand-washing stations.
- The local procurement process for PPE has been completed. 2,000 sets of overall protection, 2,000 pairs of protective goggles and 20,000 surgical masks were procured and handed over to Management Division, Department of Health Services which are further delivered to 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpachhim provinces. Based on this experience, UNICEF will ensure future procurements will assess opportunities for quality, value for money procurements within Nepal when possible.

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

- UNICEF supported the resumption of the National Measles Rubella Campaign that was interrupted by the ongoing lockdown in Sudurpaschim Province. The campaign completed in Baitadi, Darchula, Achham and Doti districts targeting 96,844 children age between 5-59 months. The campaign is ongoing in remaining five districts (Kailali, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur).
- UNICEF assessed essential health service continuity in 39 health facilities in Province 2 by using online ONA application. The initial finding shows that all health facilities are providing anti-natal care (ANC) services; 6 health facilities have functioning birthing centres; 20 have been conducting immunization sessions and more than 50 per cent health facilities have started immunization outreach sessions. UNICEF is working with other partners to streamline efforts and analysis of similar, complementary efforts.
- UNICEF is supporting the resumption of routine immunization and maternal and newborn services across all provinces. A total of 9,643 children received immunization, 2,192 pregnant women received anti-natal care, and 1,084 institutional deliveries were conducted during this reporting period. Health workers are raising concerns about the supply items for their own as well as clients/patient's protection. Major requests are for masks, hand sanitizers and gloves, though outside current global WHO guidance.
- UNICEF supported child and adolescent mental health clinic at Kanti Children Hospital provided clinical and psychosocial management support to 99 children (66 boys and 33 girls aged below 18 years) and 63 parents. Issues addressed via teleconsultation include therapeutic treatment with medication on psychiatric services and follow-up services to the clients.

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

- UNICEF jointly with the Ministry of Social Development, Sudurpashchim Province completed a 10-day virtual training for newly recruited 60 Education Officers of local levels equipping them to manage education response including COVID-19 19. With technical support from UNICEF, 59 percent of local government from province 2 have developed local level education preparedness and response plan prioritizing continuation of learning.
- Parents of an estimated 10,000 pre-primary level children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers reached via mobile phones in five districts. Mobile consultation provides information and coaching for accessing and using self-learning materials at home. As part of this effort UNICEF Nepal is developing a national radio program on parenting education in partnership with Setogurans and Ujjyalo Network and in coordination with

education cluster. The program will promote positive parenting and homebased learning activities facilitated by caregivers.

- An additional 95 persons received psycho-social support over the reporting period (cumulative total 543 persons - 235 females, 306 males, two third gender) through existing helplines, online platforms and one to one counselling. Group orientation sessions on stress management and psychological first aid was provided to 1,087 persons (511 males, 500 females and 76 other gender) from humanitarian organizations and sexual minority community in Kathmandu (virtual) and from communities in Province 5,6,7 (face to face). This week adolescent group in Kanchanpur, people in quarantine centre in Banke and gender and sexual minority community in Kathmandu were reached through group sessions.
- Health facilities combined with psychosocial experts provided support to eight people (two male and six female) with suicidal thoughts and to those who attempted suicide in Dhanusa, Kailali and Jumla districts. In addition, in coordination with the local level representatives and service providers, four survivors (girls) of sexual violence in Kapilvastu were provided with psychosocial and case management services.
- A total of 267 children (3 girls) who were deprived of liberty in eight child correction homes all over the country have been handed over to their guardians following court order. Alternative care arrangement for a further 12 children has been supported.
- Messages on non-violent discipline disseminated through social media targeted at parents reached more than 404,000 people this week (total 1.8 million so far). On the other hand, messages on online safety reached 1.4 million young people and parents on the same week (total 7.5 million so far).

#### Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- Despite this rather weak macro-economic context, UNICEF's advocacy on strengthening of child grants achieved initial success. Despite fiscal constraints, the Prime Minister and The Ministry of Finance (MoF) maintained commitment to expand the universal child grant to 11 new districts. This expansion will benefit an estimated 415,000 children and their families, many living in COVID-19 hotspots where economic activity is curtailed.
- Within its role as chair of Social Protection Task Team (SPTT), UNICEF facilitated stronger collaboration across agencies on planned and upcoming COVID-19 related social protection response by including Association of INGOs as an observer. UNICEF organized across platform meeting involving UN, WB, DFID and INGOs (AIN and Cash Coordination Group) on COVID-19 Cash response to develop a joint UN-WB-DFID-INGO advocacy strategy.

### Pakistan Country Office

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- An estimated 169 million people have been reached with TV and radio through Government, UNICEF and UNDP resources, including the mass media broadcasting of videos in partnership with UNILEVER which were produced by UNICEF in collaboration with MOH and WHO. Radio Pakistan continues to air the approved COVID-19 messaging content nationally as well as through 48 FM radio stations reaching millions of people, particularly in rural areas. Digital Pakistan's support to the MoH on social media has reached more than 122.8 million people this week through their Digital Media platform and 241,000 and 245,000 users were engaged through their WhatsApp chatbot and Facebook Chatbot respectively.
- Through existing polio alliances and health programme, 86,621 (89 new) religious leaders have been engaged and mobilised to promote risk perception of corona virus, emphasize physical distancing, encourage praying at home and to promote key preventive messages on COVID-19. Through polio structures in Sindh, in addition to Islamic leadership, a Christian leader/pastor was engaged to reach out to minority populations in Pahar Ganj (District Central) where 10 positive cases were confirmed. All the religious leaders, across faiths, in high risk areas were again approached to follow government SOPs during prayer time with regards to physical distancing and hand washing.
- UNICEF's Advocacy and Communication and polio social media platforms have reached over 124 million people<sup>4</sup> through different social media platforms, an increase of 46.6 million people during the reporting period and collectively the Government and UN Agencies have reached more than 250 million people. The engagement of people through social media<sup>5</sup> rests at 13.8 million with 2.13 million engaged during the reporting period.
- The Polio helpline (1166) which is being used for COVID-19 has received over 3.4 million calls and responded to around 1.5 million 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Contacts through social media include multiple interactions with the same person

<sup>5</sup> Definition of Social media engagement includes likes, shares and retweets

- A total of 10,670 (7,962 during reporting period) journalists, reporters and bloggers were engaged at both federal and provincial level for promoting key messages on COVID-19 and to counter negative media and Corona related myths. To counter the belief that corona virus is fake, journalists and reporters wrote and spoke about the severity of the disease and the importance of social distancing and key behaviours to follow, such as hand washing and hygiene to follow.

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

- To date, UNICEF has rehabilitated and installed WASH facilities which include Ultraviolet (UV) water filters, toilets and hand washing stations in 242 Health Care Facilities – HCF (Sindh: 32, KP: 25, Punjab: 167 and Balochistan:18), including 17 during the reporting period. More than 233,700 people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in these HCFs contributing towards reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection among healthcare workers.
- Hygiene messages are being disseminated through social mobilisers, religious leaders, FM radio, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), IEC materials displayed on communal hand washing stations and Clean and Green Pakistan digital and social media platforms reaching more than 5 million people (335,288 new) across the four provinces. Around 1.1 million people have been reached with the 501 (new 39) handwashing stations at communal points in affected. UNICEF supported the training of 3,513 frontline sanitary workers (271 new) to enhance the capacity of sanitary and health frontline workers on WASH/IPC in HCFs and high-risk communities.

#### 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 continuation of essential primary health care services including immunization, Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post-Natal Care (PNC), delivery services, childcare and curative care for adults in 136 targeted health facilities reaching 811,837 people, an increase of 37,448 in the reporting period (Baluchistan: 919, Sindh: 34,974, KP: 1,555)<sup>6</sup>.
- UNICEF continues to support Routine Immunization and a total of 19,683 children (under 1 year) have been vaccinated against measles, an increase of 1,751 children (Balochistan: 1,169, KP: 96 and Sindh: 486) during the reporting period in the 136 UNICEF supported health facilities.
- UNICEF has provided basic PPEs (gloves, sanitisers and masks) to 16,096 frontline health workers, 4,450 this reporting week and supported the training of 7,738 frontline health workers (2,814 during reporting period) on IPC as well as orienting of 16,484 frontline health workers and community volunteers (2,209 during reporting period) on COVID-19 and identification and referral of suspected cases.
- In KP, UNICEF is supporting telemedicine services through an implementing partner, Public Health Association (NGO). During the reporting period, a total of 274 people benefited from this service, which included 128 diarrhoea and 72 ARI patients under the age of 5 years. Similarly, 74 pregnant women received advice on ANC. So far, a total of 2,489 individuals have benefited from this intervention.
- During the reporting period treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was available in 2,799 UNICEF supported health facilities where 2,253 new SAM cases were enrolled for treatment (Balochistan 335; Sindh 432; KP 476 and Punjab 1,010), bringing the total to 21,165.
- With UNICEF support, 29,391 mothers/caregivers (Balochistan 2,173; Sindh 1,900; KP 3,865 and Punjab 21,453) were counselled on IYCF practices in the COVID-19 context during the reporting period and 124,082 in total. Promotion of IYCF in the context of COVID-19, focusing on the importance of optimal breastfeeding and age appropriate complementary feeding continued through mass media and social media. During the reporting period approximately 2.5 million viewers were reached through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, making a total of 43.9 million viewers since the beginning of the pandemic.
- UNICEF provided online training to 128 service providers on IPC, wasting management and promotion of IYCF in Balochistan and in Sindh. To ensure service availability in remote areas in Tharparkar, UNICEF with its partner Shifa Foundation established 10 mobile Nutrition teams to reach 650 hard to reach villages.

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

- The number of children benefiting from UNICEF supported alternate learning opportunities has increased by 39,828 during the reporting period, reaching a total of 89,342. In the reporting week Sindh Ministry of Education has launched two new initiatives (1) Digital Learning Classroom “Anytime, Anywhere Learning” in collaboration with Microsoft providing: digitized provincial textbooks; online teachers training; online student assignments and feedback and reinforcement plans. Currently it is being piloted in 4 schools of Karachi and will be scaled up in phases across the province and (2) Digital Learning platform “Mera Sabaq” (My Lesson) with support from SABAQ foundation which covers the full English, Urdu and Sindhi curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 5.

<sup>6</sup> Punjab is facing difficulty in getting data, efforts are underway by Punjab polio team to support with data through DHCSs present in target districts.

- A total of 1,444 social workforce professionals (718 women and 726 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through a package developed by UNICEF, including 381 within the reporting period (KP: 78, Sindh: 144, Punjab 127, Balochistan 32).
- A total of 10,117 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (478 girls, 437 boys, 4,868 women, 4,334 men) received Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP and Sindh provinces with 3,684 reached within the reporting period (Punjab: 975, KP: 43, Sindh: 2,052, Balochistan: 414, GB: 200). This includes 459 Individuals (4 girls, 4 boys, 25 women and 426 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in Sindh, KP, Punjab and Balochistan. In Gilgit Baltistan, the “Sehat Call” service providing online psychosocial support and counselling services to affected people became operational and received a total of 200 calls while a rapid needs assessment conducted by UNICEF in partnership with Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) shortlisted 13 quarantine and isolation centres for the provision of MHPSS to affected individuals.
- Stigma prevention messages on various platforms recorded substantial increase of over 2.6 million people during the reporting period, reaching in total over 6.6 million.

## Sri Lanka Country Office

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Joint UNICEF HPB post-curfew/new normal communication campaign has been extended from 18 to 25 May to further increase the reach (bringing total campaign run time to 17 days). The extended campaign consists of an additional 131 advert placements aired on 6 national TV channels including TV Derana, Rupavahini, ITN, Dialog TV, Shakthi TV and Vasantham TV. Out of the 16 million television audience available in the country the 131 spots are strategically placed to gain an estimated viewership of 6 million individuals, who will have the opportunity to see the messages multiple times.
- On social media the campaign has gained a unique reach of 947,968 via with a total of 94,721 engagements. Overall Digital and Social Performance, all campaigns from March to May has gained a total reach of over 40.4 million and over 7.9 million engagements.
- UNICEF will also be producing at least 6 30-seconders for radio for government distribution and will also be designing billboard advertisements based on the new normal campaign, to continue increase the reach.

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

- Equipment required for web conferencing were established at the conference room of the Family Health Bureau of the Ministry of Health for a test run until the fixed set of equipment are acquired from offshore procurement. This equipment was used to conduct online field Maternal and Child Health Reviews with the staff in the far-off districts. This provide as ideal opportunity to ensure maintenance of services in the field setting and to support the district officers in overcoming challenges related to COVID-19 epidemic.
- UNICEF supported the Family Health Bureau of the Ministry of Health in addressing Breastfeeding Code Violations during the COVID-19 response. Strong advocacy role of UNICEF Country Office along with WHO on the ill effects of advertising the feeding bottle, that could also be a form of cross promotion of formula milk, supported the Family Health Bureau in successfully addressing the issue.
- UNICEF presented Sri Lanka’s working plan to support the Ministry of Health in maintaining nutrition services through continuation of online training on IYCF, at the UNICEF ROSA regular nutrition meeting. The challenges faced in development of the online IYCF training packages were discussed with view of obtaining expert advice on this matter. Once established, the online training package would ensure maintain the pool of trainers in 26 health districts in the country.

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

- UNICEF has supported the Government in ensuring continuous learning to student in Primary grades, particularly grade 1 and 2 by providing printed home-based learning materials. With the support from the Project, around 665,000 Grade 1 and Grade 2 children in schools nation-wide will be ensured continuous learning during the school closure, including those in rural and difficult areas who do not have access to other home-based learning opportunities. This will also help smooth learning recovery after the school re-opening and hence mitigate the risk of future school drop-out and learning gaps.
- The draft COVID-19 Education Response Plan that was developed with support from UNICEF, in consultation with the MoE and the Education cluster has been submitted the Planning Department of the Ministry of Education for further finalizing, including the budget. UNICEF will continue to follow up and support the MoE in this finalization process and the finalized response plan would inform MoE’s other fund mobilization proposals/plans.

- UNICEF supported NCPA on the development of virtual psychosocial support system via NCPA counselors. UNICEF is jointly working with NCPA on the development of virtual working modality for all NCPA team to make sure uninterrupted 1929 and other services for long run.
- Digital case management guideline was developed and endorsed by the department of probation and childcare services for roll out in all 9 provinces. This is another milestone in CP program which enable coordinated care and protection services for children through virtual case management. 251 children have already benefited via online case management and 48 children were ensured with proper alternative care arrangements.
- UNICEF in Partnership with Probation and childcare services in eastern provinces piloted the virtual children club modalities in 5 Divisional secretariats. This system provided an opportunity for children for establish their social contact, identify different challenges faced by the children due to COVID-19 and response measures and come up with their own solutions and continue their children club activities including risk communication via virtual modalities. Same model can be replicated in other divisions based on filed context.
- UNICEF lead the development of the Pillar 2 for the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. Pillar 2 includes scaling up and expanding resilient and pro-poor social protection systems, maintaining essential food and nutrition services, ensure continuity and quality of WASH services, secure sustained learning for all children, support continuity of social services and access to shelter and support victims of GBV.

## Funding Status

Sector	Requirements (\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received (\$)	Other Resources (\$)	\$	%
Afghanistan	43,160,000	27,193,900	-	15,966,100	37
Bangladesh	75,827,325	6,713,118	8,981,741	60,132,466	79
Bhutan	2,616,000	1,089,716	258,400	1,267,884	48
India	40,000,000	19,149,176	5,160,000	15,690,824	39
Maldives	10,281,375	1,800,000	-	8,481,375	82
Nepal	14,355,000	3,688,426	579,000	10,087,574	70
Pakistan	50,200,000	5,966,414	2,731,051	41,502,535	83
Sri Lanka	4,600,000	1,700,000	252,900	2,647,100	58
Regional Office	2,500,000	2,242,500	-	257,500	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,539,700</b>	<b>69,543,250</b>	<b>17,963,092</b>	<b>156,033,358</b>	<b>64</b>

## Next SitRep: 11 June 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

[Regaining momentum. Photo story. Nepal](#): Health facilities around the country are gearing up to resume routine immunization services interrupted by the COVID-19 crisis.

[HIS- Malnourished Rohingya children at heightened risk during pandemic](#): Community nutrition volunteers push through to prevent the COVID-19 crisis from spiralling into a nutrition crisis.

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