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Reporting Period: April 23 - 29, 2020

# UNICEF in South Asia

## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8



### Highlights

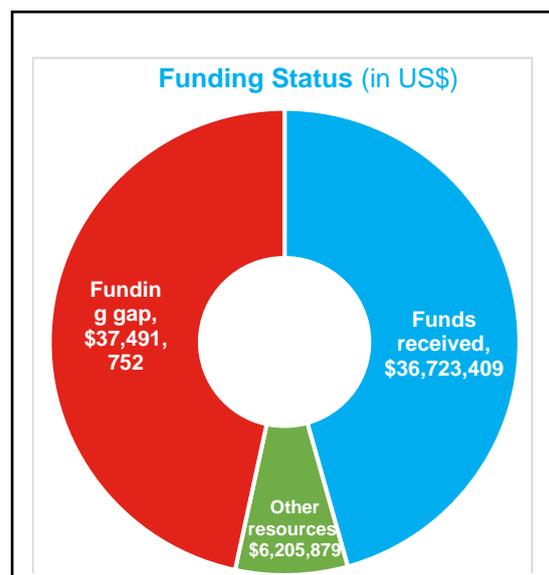
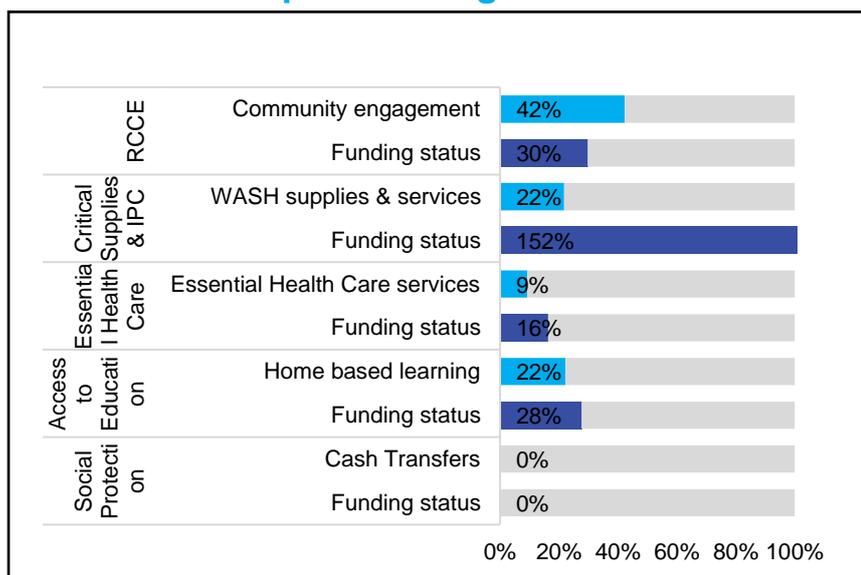
- A total of 22,276 confirmed cases were recorded in the South Asia region during the reporting period bringing the total to 58,120 cases and 1,651 deaths. This represents a 62% increase compared to last week with the number of cases more than doubled in Maldives (225%). India reported 12,579 new cases, Pakistan added 4,960 new cases, Bangladesh 3,331 cases, and Afghanistan 847 new cases.
- There are concerns with the high number of health workers particularly doctors being affected by the disease especially in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan due to lack of protective equipment.
- Recent assessments have shown that due to the ongoing lockdown measures there is a significant decrease in access and provision of essential health services such as immunization, treatment of acute malnutrition and safe deliveries across the region.
- UNICEF has warned that South Asia region could face a further public health crisis as children miss routine vaccinations as lockdown measures across the region have halted immunization drives and parents refrained from taking their children health facilities for vaccinations
- Over 590 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.
- In collaboration with governments and partners, UNICEF has reached 2.2 million people with WASH supplies and services for IPC.
- On 25 March UNICEF joined in the United Nations COVID-19 Appeal, asking for \$80.4 million to reach 500 million people with risk communication, critical supplies, adequate health care, continuous education, child protection and social protection services. This appeal is being revised and will increase substantially in line with the escalating need needs due to the spread of COVID in South Asia.

### Situation in Numbers

- 22,276**  
No. of new cases over the past week ((WHO April 06, 2020)
- 58,120**  
Total cases of COVID 19 (WHO April 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 (UNICEF 2020)

**UNICEF Appeal 2020**  
**For South Asia**  
**US\$ 80.4 million**

### UNICEF's Response Budget in South Asia

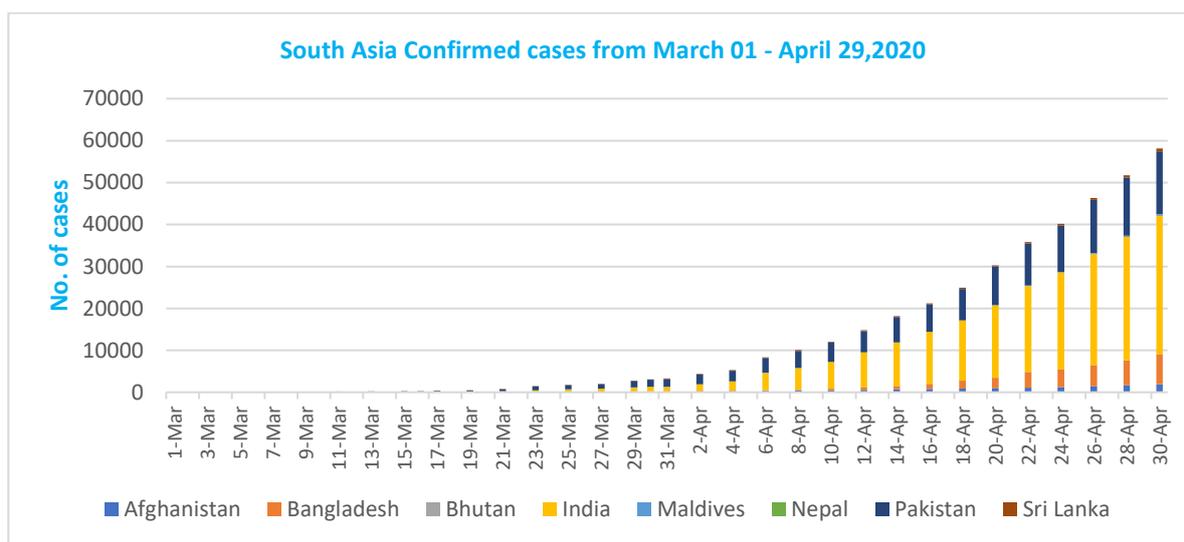


## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF South Asia appeals for US\$ 80.4 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 is being revised and will increase substantially in line with the escalating need needs due to the spread of COVID in South Asia. UNICEF South Asia has so far received \$36.7 million from the CERF, Asia Development Bank, DFID, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), KfW, Japanese Government, World Bank and Facebook Foundation. In view of the worsening situation, 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.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

South Asia region recorded a total of 22,276 cases over the past week bringing the total to 58,120 cases and 1,651 deaths. This represents a 62% increase of the total number of cases compared to last week. The situation in Maldives remain of great concern as the cases continue to double (225%) mostly among migrant workers living in packed dormitories in the capital Male. Similarly, India reported 12,5719 new cases bringing the total to 33,049 while Pakistan added 4,960 new cases, Bangladesh 3,331 cases, Afghanistan 847 new cases, Sri Lanka registered 339 new cases, Nepal 25 new cases and 1 case in Bhutan as shown in figure 1 below.



Source: WHO COVID-19 Daily Sitreps<sup>1</sup> and SAARC Disaster Management Centre<sup>2</sup>

Recent UNICEF assessments and monitoring findings shown that due to the ongoing lockdown measures there is a significant decrease in access and provision of essential health and nutrition services such as immunization, treatment of acute malnutrition and safe deliveries across the region. For instance, in Maldives, routine immunization has been halted. Similarly, Afghanistan has reported a 38 percent decrease of in-patient admissions of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 10 percent decrease in outpatient services in COVID-19 time (March 2020) compared to non-COVID-19 time (March 2019). Bangladesh has reported that 41 per cent fewer women who have sought facility care for their deliveries in March 2020 (46,491) as compared to March 2019 (78,154), indicating an overall drop in use of/access to health services. Coverage of infant and young child feeding counselling decreased from 95 per cent to 91 per cent and weighing of pregnant women from 65 per cent to 59 per cent. The screening of children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) continues to be low at 35 per cent. UNICEF has warned that South Asia region could face a further public health crisis as children miss routine vaccinations as lockdown measures across the region have halted immunization drives and parents refrained from taking their children health facilities for vaccinations. Sporadic outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles and diphtheria, have already been seen in parts of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.

## 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 and Nepal where government led cluster or sector

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.covid19-sdmc.org/>

mechanism 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 governments in planning, coordination and/or implementation of the education response to the COVID-19. UNICEF Afghanistan and Nepal have established response plans and are supporting their implementation through the Education Cluster. UNICEF Sri Lanka has supported the Ministry of Education in developing the Draft Education Cluster Response Plan. UNICEF Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan are working closely with their Ministries of Education to develop education response plans

## 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) critical medical and Water Supply and Hygiene (WASH) supplies and services, (3) provision of healthcare and nutrition services, (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 previous epidemics, including in this region (SARS, H1N1 etc).

### Afghanistan Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 3.7 million people and engaged 29,000 people through newspapers, weekly radio programme on Radio Free Europe, roundtable media discussion, media interviews and different social media platforms.
- Rumors and myths related to COVID-19 from different regions were collected and analyzed, and response guide prepared will be shared with partners and used in U report.
- A total of 926 religious leaders have been oriented on COVID-19 to disseminate the message to their followers including 40 renowned religious leaders of Kandahar province with 20,000 followers in Jumma prayer, 415 leaders from Badakhshan and 517 leaders from Takhar. In addition, 1,200 social mobilizers are conducting at least 10 house-to-house visits a day all over the Southern region.
- 100 community elders oriented on COVID 19 from 3 districts of Nangahar province and 1 district of Langham province and 300 individuals received key preventative messages and demonstrated proper handwashing.

#### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- UNICEF procured 1500 locally manufactured PPEs for the urgent use by public health staff and staff involving in cleaning/waste management in Herat.
- 12 emergency handwashing facilities were provided in four isolation wards in Kunar province. Meanwhile, 4 latrine stalls were repaired, and 2 emergency latrines were newly installed to benefit the visitors from the hospital. In addition, 9 healthcare facilities in Laghman province were equipped with buckets and jerry cans for temporary hand washing stations as part of infection prevention and control.
- 6 handwashing station in Torkham bordering Pakistan province were installed with 1,000 returnees benefitting from the services during the reporting period. 3,344 returnees from Iran in Nimroz province have benefited from UNICEF supported hand washing facilities with soap bar. In addition, 204 families (1,428 individuals) in Farah provinces have received soap bars to practice hand washing.

#### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- 21,361 children and women childbearing age benefited from basic health and nutrition services including ante-natal clinic, nutrition screening and EPI during reporting period.
- UNICEF supported 60 mobile health and nutrition teams in 14 provinces continue to provide health and nutrition services. The number of people benefitting from health mobile health service has increased due to lockdown measures that significantly affected people accessing primary health care services.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- UNICEF is supporting three partners to implement COVID-19 response in high-risk areas reaching 1,062,600 children via TVs and radios in the COVID-19 most affected regions in Afghanistan.
- 327 children (girls: 11, boys: 316) without parental care including returnees were reunified with their families. They have also received psychosocial support and temporary shelter.

- 4,888 people including 4,362 children (girls:1642, boys: 2720) and 526 parents (mothers: 526, fathers: 330) received psychosocial support to enable them to cope with the current situation during COVID-19 and maintain their resilience and normalcy
- 30,541 including 19,055 children (girls: 8289, boys: 10766) and 11,486 community members (women: 5399, men: 6087) received knowledge and skill training on COVID-19 as well as awareness raising briefs on child protection risks that might occur during COVID-19.
- In coordination with WASH section, soap and masks were distributed to 15,315 children and their caregivers.

## Bangladesh Country Office;

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Cumulatively since March over 37.5 million people are consistently being reached via social media and TV with messages on prevention and response to COVID-19. This week's highlights include posts on [Safe Ramadan practices](#) and "[Keeping in Equal](#)" (gender) and videos on [adolescent nutrition](#), [how to recognize and respond to symptoms](#), and [Meena's advice on staying at home](#)<sup>3</sup>. While UNICEF is now reaching the up to 25 million Facebook users in the country, people who do not have access to social media – including the most disadvantaged, who are a higher percentage of women than men, and those without access to digital media and internet services– must be reached through other non-digital channels such as miking and through religious leaders.
- The Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh (IFB) circulated a directive to 230,000 mosques covering the entire country to ask the community to offer their prayers at home. This circular has been reinforced by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and will continue throughout Ramadan. IFB has established a monitoring mechanism by connecting with the district and upazila level officials everyday through phone to collect information from the field level.
- In Cox Bazar messaging continued this week through radio (every 30 minutes); community mobilizers (31,197 people, 60 per cent females); and 200 Rohingya religious leaders who are undertaking mosque-based messaging (reaching 284,690 Rohingya refugees).
- Local authorities in Pekua, Moheshkhali and Kutubdia Sub-Districts began mobile loudspeaker messaging. This messaging is critical for rural areas where TV, radio and the internet have less coverage.
- UNICEF partners have reached the 240,000 refugees in the Rohingya camps with COVID-19 messaging, while ensuring the regular supply of soap. Altogether 27,975 UNICEF beneficiaries received soap during reporting period. Additionally, this week, hygiene promoters are supporting WFP during their general food assistance distribution to conduct hygiene promotion.

### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- UNICEF delivered an additional 7 ventilators, 10 respirators (oxygen concentrators), 427 pulse oximeters and 28 laryngoscopes to the Central Medical Store Depot for distribution. UNICEF has targeted 200 health facilities with essential equipment for COVID-19 case management.
- UNICEF's first PPE shipment arrived on 25 April with another due on 1 May. The global PPE supply situation remains very tight and insufficient PPE is a major challenge for COVID-19 response in Bangladesh.
- UNICEF is targeting 2,000 service providers with IPC training. Sixty-five (45 females) service providers received online training on IPC this week and a total of 107 people have been trained to date.
- UNICEF aims to ensure the continuity of water supply and soap availability across the country. This week, 409,000 people (237,425 female) were reached across the country with UNICEF-supported WASH interventions. In total, 1,786 handpumps were repaired by DPHE and 123 pipe water systems chlorinated. In addition, 50,000 bars of soap were distributed.
- In Cox Bazaar, the stand-by diarrhoea treatment centre (DTC) in Leda will be re-activated and treatment for acute watery diarrhea will be shifted from the Teknaf DTC to Leda by early next week. The structure in Teknaf will then be converted to a 30-bed COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre while the construction of the 200-bed facility is being undertaken by UNICEF and its partners. Positive cases in the host community are being isolated and treated at the Ramu Upazilla Health Complex; UNICEF and other UN agencies are supporting the operationalization of similar isolation and treatment units in other upazillas.
- Water shortages in Teknaf are posing a public health risk and hamper the implementation of essential measures associated to COVID-19 prevention to 22,000 beneficiaries in Unchiprang Camp 22, such as handwashing and disinfection of latrines and bathing cubicles.

### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- New guidelines were issued and circulated with tips to continue routine immunization during COVID-19 pandemic by the Directorate General of Health Services based on advice from UNICEF and WHO. While the number of children immunized in March did not drop significantly, the number of drop-in sessions held for April

<sup>3</sup> New Meena animation video on stay at home and social distancing reached 150,000 people. 510,000 adolescents were reached through radio programmes on COVID-19 related information.

has reduced. Meanwhile, 41 per cent fewer women have sought facility care for their deliveries in March 2020 (46,491) as compared to March 2019 (78,154), indicating an overall drop in use of/access to health services.

- Nutrition service access also decreased in March. Coverage of infant and young child feeding counselling decreased from 95 per cent to 91 per cent and weighing of pregnant women from 65 per cent to 59 per cent. The screening of children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) continues to be low at 35 per cent and requires urgent attention. UNICEF will continue to monitor these indicators on a monthly basis and support in developing a guideline to continue minimum nutrition services using different channels. Catch-up rounds may also be run when the situation permits.
- Two public service announcements (PSAs) were developed for adolescents on “[Boosting immunity through dietary diversity for preventing COVID-19](#)” and “Hygiene, physical exercise and mental health management during COVID-19 lockdown at home”. The PSAs were posted on the website of the Directorate of Health Services, [UNICEF Bangladesh](#), Shorno Kishoree social media and TV. Over one million views were recorded on the UNICEF Facebook page. [Breastfeeding message with linkages with COVID-19](#) reached 1.4 million views on UNICEF Facebook page.
- In Cox Bazaar, no immunization services were provided in the sub district of Moheshkali where there are positive cases or in the camps in Teknaf due to positive cases the host community. There are reports of stock-outs of pentavalent vaccine in all upazillas and in the camps, with a limited amount (61,400 vials) available.
- Active case finding for treatment of severe acute malnutrition in Rohingya camps has been constrained by the limited number of Bangladeshi staff able to enter the camps. Partners are recruiting Rohingya volunteers to fill the gap. In the interim, the majority newly enrolled children have been self-referrals. There were 275 new admissions for SAM treatment in February, 209 March and 208 as of 23 April, the latter mainly through self-referral.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- The Ministries of Education began airing primary classes on 29 March and secondary classes on 7 April while Madrasah and technical education began 19 April. The Facebook publication of national school schedules for distance learning resulted in an increase in participation.
- It is estimated that around 60 per cent of the country’s 27,813,200 primary and secondary students have access to distance learning. This percentage is expected to rise after the radio-based education is activated this week. The Bangladesh Community Radio Network will support this through 19 community radio stations covering remote areas.
- Child protection messaging including tip sheets for parents and on violence against children including GBV have been approved and shared through Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Department of Social Services and partners. Over 500,000 people have been reached so far.
- The Government of Bangladesh has given a permission for case workers to continue their vital work. Once deployed, UNICEF will provide PPE for the concerned case workers. As a result of COVID-19, all social workers had been re-directed to the Child Helpline to support the increase in calls. This left a gap in service with over 14,000 open cases.
- This week, 32,080 households with school-aged children in the camps were reached by 1,244 Rohingya volunteer teachers with messages on caregiver-led home-based learning. A rapid survey by UNICEF partner SKUS showed that 80 per cent of children have workbooks at home to support their studies.
- New alternative care arrangements were made for 26 children (15 females). UNICEF and partners also provided psychosocial support (13,872 beneficiaries including 6,861 females); case management (108 including 87 females); positive parenting (3,610 parents and caregivers including 1,619 females); and child protection messaging (17,435 community members including 9,930 females).

#### Bhutan Country Office;

##### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Over 12,000 volunteers and community influencers engaged in disseminating COVID-19 preventive and containment messages and advisories on maternal and child health, nutrition, learning and protection concerns triggered by COVID-19.
- Over 70 testimonials #COVID19STORIES received from children and young Bhutanese people across the country and abroad have shared been published the start of the COVID19 Diaries campaign <https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/covid-19-diaries>.
- 389,685 people reached with advocacy and communication messages, while the number of total impressions was 2,286,292.
- Since April, Bhutan CO has been sharing messages on parenting, young people and breastfeeding during COVID-19 through an advertisement on the home and news pages of [www.kuenselonline.com](http://www.kuenselonline.com).
- Trained and engaged 50 youth volunteers from the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan to conduct a rapid pulse survey. The survey was conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to understand the level of COVID-19 knowledge across the 20 districts.

### Critical medical supply and WASH Services

- UNICEF in partnership with MoH, SNV and local governments has so far completed 19 permanent handwashing facilities in three municipalities and four districts (Thimphu Thromdey, Phuentsholing Thromdey, Samtse District, Mongar District, Tashigang District, Samdrup Jongkhar Thromdey and Pema Gatsel district) to promote good hygiene and handwashing for 16,500 people to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- Over 500 teachers have been trained as Trainer of Trainers on the use of Google Classrooms.
- The Ministry of Education has identified that about 17,000 children in remote areas are without any devices and connectivity which are failing to access the online learning.
- Till date, 48 (22 male and 26 female) adults and 121 children (55 boys and 66 girls) have contacted the *Sherig* Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The 121 children were referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided counselling services.

### India Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- UNICEF supported national pre-caller tune on “Social Distancing” reached appx 500 million disseminated through all mobile tele-networks across the country. More than 5 million people reached across the state through 3,031 WhatsApp groups of 19 departments/ networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- The UNICEF Bihar State office and UNICEF Nepal country office jointly developed RCCE materials in local dialects to reach and engage the cross-border communities
- The overall reach of UNICEF media coverage on COVID-19 this week is 125.87 million. The increase is due to coverage on prominent TV channels ABP News, India News, in Hindi dailies and websites like indiatimes.com. Social media reach was 58 million, content about COVID-19 appeared on social media feeds 18 million times on average every day this week and was seen by 8.3 million on average per day.
- Cumulatively, it is estimated over 20.8 million teachers, parents and SMC members have been reached in 14 states on risk reduction messages with support from C4D and Health teams through mass media channels since March.

#### Critical medical and WASH supplies and Services

- Procurement of PPE supplies and for Thermal Scanners for airports is currently ongoing at national level, to support MoHFW. Concurrently, UNICEF India awaits to provide additional support to the country through an international tender launched by the UNICEF Supply Division.
- UNICEF staff members in Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Chhattisgarh have conducted WASH assessment in health care facilities and quarantine centers. Most States have conducted a physical assessment except UP; conducted through telephonic interview yielding positive results for district action plan.
- UNICEF state offices in Jharkhand and Bihar have supported the installation of touch-free hand washing stations at health care facilities, public spaces and quarantine facilities. In UP, UNICEF advocacy led to installation of three new piped water supply scheme in districts, disinfection of 1,819 hand pumps located around the temporary shelters and quarantine centers.

#### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- UNICEF provided support to MoHFW initiative to conduct orientation along with WHO, to the call handlers and the managers of; 1075 Helplines across the hubs in country – about 1200 candidates; 104 Helplines in all states across the country – about 2000 candidates. The focus of orientation is on FAQs for COVID19 and the role call centers can play in reducing Stigma and discrimination and increasing social cohesion in the community.
- UNICEF facilitated a session on Supporting Food Security and Nutrition during COVID-19 Pandemic by World Food Program as part of COVID Academy. The session was well received by various organizations.
- Data from Anemia Mukht Bharat Dashboard shows the impact of COVID on delivery and reporting of essential nutrition services: For instance, nutrition services targeting adolescent girls (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) dropped from 43% December 2019 to 5% in March 2020.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- All UNICEF State offices continue their engagement and partnership with state governments and partners in the continuity of learning of students through various digital and non-digital platforms. It is estimated that over 33 million children have been reached in 11 states.
- UNICEF in collaboration with DWCD has rolled out a responsive parenting programme for young children in three states- Assam, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

- In Jharkhand State, an online training session benefited 239 key Child protection functionaries and in Rajasthan 250 functionaries. A session was organized on PSS and Child Protection issues with National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), and SPHERE (NGO coordination mechanism), WHO, and UNICEF, benefiting 2,444 front line workers from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (1085 women, 1226 men, 132 unknowns).
- In Uttar Pradesh, mental health and PSS is being provided in 34 camps, and 1,000 families with children at risk of child labour have received cash-transfers by the state government. Help desks have been set up in a few states (Jharkand and Odisha) to reach out to migrant labor trapped and provide support and contact with families.
- UNICEF supported the Department of Women and Children in issuing guidelines to the District Collectors on the Supreme Court Order regarding children in Childcare Institutes (CCIs). Based on the same, 67 children have been provided bail in Observation Homes. In Maharashtra, 5 children separated from parents in quarantine facilities were provided case management and PSS.
- A two-day strategy design workshop was organized in collaboration with the Global Volunteering Office and UNICEF. The workshop was attended by over 85 volunteers and partners who came up with different solutions to address the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Data Collection and Analysis of collateral impacts of COVID-19

- An assessment is ongoing of functioning of cash transfer programs (PMMVY, JSY, girl cash transfers at state level, scholarships, etc) for horizontal and vertical expansion. Budget analysis and analysis on impact on states' finance are ongoing (Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, UP). This will be used to influence the states supplementary budget.
- At the national level, community-based monitoring mechanism is being set up in partnership with the network of NGOs/CSOs to monitor the socio-economic impact in 14 districts in 8 states. First round of the IVR questions will be sent out through RapidPro by end May.
- At State level, rapid assessment results have come in and are being discussed with the governments in states like Uttar Pradesh and Chattisgarh. In Uttar Pradesh, corresponding feedback loops developed to develop banking services through ideas like micro-ATMs.
- In Assam, UNICEF has supported developing guidelines for managing flood relief camps in the context of COVID-19. The guidelines have been notified by Government of Assam and shared with all the district authorities for implementation.

#### Maldives Country Office;

##### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- As part of the RCCE, a Viber chat bot has been launched in English and Dhivehi to increase the reach of key messages on prevention and reduction of overall impacts of the outbreak. The chat bot includes a survey function which would allow short informative quizzes to be put out to the public, gauge their understanding on key areas around COVID-19 and the provide necessary information.
- Daily messages and infographics are disseminated through UNICEF Maldives social media channels as well as partners. The theme during the reporting period focused on conveying the importance of good nutrition for children and families, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. These messages are also intended to advocate for children's nutrition security at the national level, since children's food choices are becoming increasingly limited due to the lockdown rules. Based on joint messaging, over multiple platforms, a cumulative reach of 34,164,945 has been achieved so far.
- UNICEF continued to work with local partner NGO - Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC), to raise awareness on prevention of violence against children as well promote healthy daily routines during the emergency. As such social media posts were created jointly created and disseminated. 10 Facebook posts and 12 Twitter/Instagram posts were shared.

##### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- With the lockdown, and essential services suspended for the past week, UNICEF advocated for alternate delivery of key services for immunization and nutrition services for infants and young children. Starting 3 May, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) activities and life-saving nutrition services will be available through appointment, to respect the restricted movements during lockdown.
- As per government projections, an estimated 2,351 pregnant women could potentially get infected, 353 might require hospitalization, and 118 could require ICU treatment if there is 50 percent compliance to social distancing measures and the lockdown is respected. UNICEF is working with the national health authorities to track and monitor those women due to deliver in the coming months, develop guidelines and protocols on how to support both pregnant and lactating women, but also potential separation of children and parents due to positive testing.

### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- With UNICEF technical support, the MoE has started working on preparing an Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (ERRP) for the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan will establish how best nationwide learning can be ensured during movement restrictions and school closures, while also planning for an eventual reopening of schools in a safe and coordinated manner.
- The MoE informed the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) their intent to apply for the GPE's COVID-19 Accelerated Funds, which will further support scaling up the MoE's COVID response capacity.
- UNICEF has in the past weeks completed recruitment of 9 care workers to support in the two state childcare institutions for a total of 171 children, while residential teachers are yet to be recruited as part of UNICEF's emergency support.

### Social Protection/Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- Upon the request of the National Social Protection Agency (NSPA), UNICEF and the International Policy Centre (IPC) have developed and shared a concept note for introducing a time-bound targeted child grant to support the most vulnerable families to meet essential needs in the midst of crisis.
- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Male' City Council and Ministry of Youth and Community Engagement in providing financial support to two interventions to support an initial 1,000 families, including 308 single parents and 296 people with disability.

### Nepal Country Office;

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Six episodes of the "Corona Capsule" radio programmes and eight episodes of the "Corona Care" TV programme with focus on COVID-19 risk communication and social and economic issues were aired through 340 radio stations and the most popular television channels reaching more than 1.5 million people over 16 years of age. The radio and television programmes are also broadcast on Facebook, podcasts and mobile application "Hamro Patro" and UNICEF Nepal website, even reaching people residing outside Nepal.
- Through a Collaboration with the National Inter-Religious Network and other inter-faith religious and social leaders, UNICEF disseminated specific risk information and social distancing guidance related to religious celebrations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNICEF Nepal's #ReadAloud storytelling initiative has garnered more than 3.6 million impressions, nearly 3 million reach and 1 million engagements since it was launched three weeks ago.
- UNICEF launched new Media guidance on the role of journalists in combating stigma and discrimination during COVID-19 and disseminated the guidance in English and Nepali languages to more than 100 media representatives. The guidance was also shared on UNICEF Nepal's digital platforms including Facebook, Twitter and website, has gathered a reach of 1 million in less than 24 hours since its launch.
- Multi-lingual radio and television public service announcements on COVID-19 continue to air through more than 500 radio stations and 12 television channels reaching out to more than 6 million people across the country. Messages through UNICEF Nepal social media channels reached over 4 million people in the last week with a total reach of 24 million and engagement of more than three million people since March.

#### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- To date, UNICEF Nepal WASH Infection Prevention and Control efforts have supported 22 districts in five provinces to improve health care facilities (HCF) designated as COVID-19 isolation facilities. UNICEF is providing 20 critical WASH commodities including water purification tablets (20,340) and flocculants / disinfectant (144,000), hygiene kits (802), buckets and mugs (500), soaps (680), bleaching powder (165kgs), disinfection and cleaning materials based on a minimum package of priority. UNICEF is collaborating with WHO and GIZ in addressing gaps identified in the Infection Prevention and Control Assessments.
- UNICEF has provided a total of seven medical tents to operate fever clinics; a horizontal autoclave (210 litres capacity) for the decontamination of infectious waste prior to disposal; Personal protective supplies such as 71,500 surgical masks and 20,000 surgical gloves, as well as 3,045 bottles of hand sanitizers, 650 blankets and 394 LLIN bednets to support the designated COVID hospitals and the isolation facilities.

#### Provision of adequate health care, including case management, WASH and nutrition

- Following last week's issuance of government 'Interim Guideline on continuation of essential/basic health services,' UNICEF has been supporting Provincial Health Directorates to take stock of essential health services in provinces and municipalities.
- UNICEF supported routine immunization and maternal and newborn services have resumed in provinces 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpachhim with specific precautions adopted by health workers to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.
- UNICEF has been supporting Kanti Children Hospital to run a child and adolescent mental health clinic to provide clinical and psychosocial management support to those suffering during the lockdown. A total of 73

people (33 children age below 18 years and 40 parents suffering from parental anxiety) received service over the past week. Issues addressed via teleconsultation include counseling on stress and distress, psychiatric services, and follow-up services to the clients.

- UNICEF led the nutrition cluster is developing an interim Nutrition Information System (NIS) considering COVID-19 context.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- Self-learning materials for pre-primary to grade 3 developed with UNICEF technical assistance were endorsed and uploaded in the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) [website](#). UNICEF and cluster partners also technically supported the development of Forty-five day's learning materials
- UNICEF and partners have identified 613 schools used as quarantine sites accommodating 2,660 people. A [Guidance note and code of conduct on disinfection and safety measure](#) was issued to promote safe learning environment and safeguarding of the students when the schools reopen.
- Till date, a total of 2,502 persons (1,648 females and 854 males) received psychosocial support through existing helplines and telephone counselling. Among the total callers, 129 were referred for psychiatric consultations. Most of the calls received were related to information on relief assistance, as well people sharing feeling fear/ anxiety.
- Gender Based Violence risks identified through helplines and counselling services are being followed-up with referral to health and legal services.
- The National Child Rights Council and UNICEF produced awareness messages emphasizing the vulnerability of children and disseminated these via radio networks and helplines to an estimated 15 million people. Messages on online safety reached more than 1.4 million parents and young people who were particularly targeted through social media which witnessed more than 800,000 engagements. Messages on prevention of psychosocial distress, helpline information and guidance for parents on how to talk with children in this current situation has reached 5.3 million people through different online platforms.

#### Data Collection and Analysis of collateral impacts of COVID-19

- UNICEF contributed to the Humanitarian Country Team assessment of quarantine sites to determine the risks to vulnerable groups and to shape future support to affected populations. Initial results highlight that the existing facilities appear inadequate in terms of dietary and WASH requirements, nor differentiate the needs of women and children adequately. UNICEF Is working on addressing some of these gaps depending on the availability of funds.

#### Pakistan Country Office;

##### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- A total of 850,796 people have been reached with messages COVID-19 prevention using different channels including social media posting and mosques and WASH partnership networks, digital media, Community Resource Persons, talking walls and IEC materials in convergence with Clean & Green Punjab campaign
- Over 900,000 people have been engaged including religious leaders, local influencers and population at risk
- A total of 10,833 calls were received during the reporting periods seeking information on COVID-19

##### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- Over 7,000 new people have benefitted from the WASH facilities installed in the previously reported 150 out of the targeted 300 health facilities (Sindh 23, KP 25, Punjab 102).
- A total of 462 handwashing stations (12 new) have been installed at communal points across the four provinces (Sindh 62, Punjab 113, KP 276, Baluchistan 11), enabling over 670,000 people (more than 26,000 additional) to practice proper handwashing which is key in the control and prevention of COVID-19 (Sindh 139,045, KP 331,048, Punjab 198,806 and Baluchistan 7,833)
- Hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention messages have been disseminated to over 2.8 million people (more than 142,000 new) to date (Sindh 462, 648, KP 333,669, Punjab 1,908,437, Baluchistan 192,030).
- 79,100 people have been reached with basic water services; one additional solar powered RO plant has been installed in Civil Hospital Karachi.

##### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- A total of 1,223,645 people (85,643 through WhatsApp groups and 138,002 through different Facebook pages) have been reached with messages on Nutrition and COVID through Polio networks and SUN teams
- A total of 13,750 SAM children have been admitted for treatment, of which 1,247 were reached during the reporting period (KP 564; Balochistan: 435 and Sindh: 248).
- 8,835 pregnant and lactating women have been reached with counselling on IYCF practices during the reporting period (KP: 5,592, Balochistan: 2,156 and Sindh: 1,087) with 49,725 in total.

#### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- 9,161 people were reached including SMCs/PTC members, Teachers and Government officials, with messages on COVID 19 prevention, precaution, and stigma prevention, and link to Mental Health & psychosocial support

- 7,884 SMCs/PTMCs members, teachers and other education personnel were reached with prevention information via SMS, robocall and social media.
- 11,318 parents were reached with messages encouraging learning activities through SMS.
- 10,818 children benefiting from alternate learning opportunities
- 366 Teachers Trained through online teachers training program
- Psychosocial support services by Medical Social Officers cumulatively reached 4320 individuals till date including (Corona Suspected cases 684, Medical & paramedical staff dealing with COVID cases 1013, Families, caregivers, general communities including children 1790 & Helpline 32)
- 1,826 people including children have been reached with stigma prevention messages through Facebook, WhatsApp and other online communication channels.
- 10 helpline operators have been oriented on MPHSS and their role regarding providing information to callers and referral to Psychologist panel.
- 47 frontline workers have been trained on stigma prevention messages and CRVS through Local Government bringing the total trained to 176 social service workers.

## Sri Lanka Country Office;

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Phase II of COVID-19 Risk Comms Campaign (Symptoms and caregiving, and stigma) gained over 3.1 million unique reaches on social media. All content was viewed over 12 million times and all video assets gained over 2.3 million views. Overall, there were over 530,000 engagements for all phase II content on social media.
- UNICEF Sri Lanka has secured the commitment of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to answer the questions of children and young persons on COVID-19. An online space was created to allow for interaction between the country's children and adolescents with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and launched on 22 April. The interaction will be through the Prime Minister's online platform, which has a following of nearly 1.4 million.

### Critical Medical and WASH Supplies and Services

- With the increase in number of detected cases, MoH is planning to upgrade more facilities as treatment and isolation hospitals. District Hospital Kandana, District Hospital Wethara, Base Hospital Thedeniya too has been added to the list of treatment hospitals. Currently UNICEF is supporting the MoH to conduct a rapid assessment of isolation facilities including WASH and IPC in the additional hospitals with a view of supporting the upgrade of the facilities.
- 3,088 PPE kits would be handed over to the MoH for the use in identified hospitals caring for infected and suspected cases of COVID 19. Also, PPE kits would be provided to the other hospitals for the use in COVID 19 triage units set up at the reception area in the hospital.
- The IPC guidelines for schools has been shared with MoE and it is being reviewed by MoH and MoE; IPC guidelines for early childhood care services has been developed and pending approval from the Ministry of women and children affairs.

### Provision of adequate health and nutrition care

- 7, 000 community health workers benefitted from the distribution of the English version of the pocket e-book on providing Maternal and Child Health care including nutrition in the context of COVID-19. Work on translation of the book to two local languages Sinhala and Tamil are in progress. Online training package for the same also is under development

### Access to continuous education and child protection services

- The Education Response Plan for Sri Lanka is currently being finalized together with sector partners. This document will form the basis for developing interventions and support alignment with the government's priorities in Education early this week.
- The National Institute of Education (NIE), with technical support from UNICEF has finalized the learning package for grade 1, for which UNICEF has initiated the printing process. So far, the different programmes for continuous learning initiated by the MoE/NIE do not target lower-primary grades (from grade 1 to 3). Therefore, at the request of the Government, this print-based material would be distributed to grade one students in all schools nation-wide covering approximately 328,500 students. In addition, based on MoE's request UNICEF has successfully mobilized financial resources to provide similar support to all students in grade 2.
- UNICEF established virtual psychosocial support network system and the MHPSS network established in the Eastern and Northern provinces to provide effective psychosocial first aid and counselling had reach 217 children, parents and caregivers have been reached during last week (total 905 to-date).
- Five (5) children were provided with proper alternative care arrangements last week and UNICEF trained 19 Probation Officers (total 101) during last week on the guidelines developed on the management of children's homes during COVID-19. Through this, 12 new children's homes are now implementing the guidelines bringing the total to 114 children's homes.

## Data Collection and Analysis

- UNICEF together with Verité Research plan to launch a Real-Time Tracking (RTT) system to monitor socio-economic impacts on vulnerable population by COVID-19 which would complement macroeconomic data currently monitored by the Government and International Finance Institutes (IMF, World Bank etc.)
- Given the lockdown situation and restricted movement, child protection assessment had been delayed and will be launched within the week to collect data island-wide. It will target randomly selected sample households, quarantine centers and hospitals to gather data on children's protection and wellbeing.

## Funding Status

Sector	Requirements (\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received (\$)	Other Resources (\$)	\$	%
Afghanistan	12,240,000	2,270,000	0	9,970,000	81
Bangladesh	15,355,790	5,763,619	5,240,879	4,351,292	28
Bhutan	1,800,000	550,000	35,000	1,215,000	68
India	8,797,750	18,704,997	0	-9,907,247	-113
Maldives	3,330,000	800,000	0	2,530,000	76
Nepal	6,075,000	2,272,778	500,000	3,302,222	54
Pakistan	27,622,500	3,459,377	400,000	23,763,123	86
Sri Lanka	3,000,000	1,297,000	30,000	1,673,000	56
Regional Office	2,200,000	1,605,638	0	594,362	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,421,040</b>	<b>36,723,409</b>	<b>6,205,879</b>	<b>37,491,752</b>	<b>47</b>

## Next SitRep: 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Response: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

UNICEF South Asia Press Release on Disruption of child vaccination in South Asia poses an urgent threat to children's health; <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/disruption-child-vaccination-south-asia-poses-urgent-threat-childrens-health-unicef>

UNICEF Bangladesh; Courageous health workers on the frontline in a time of deadly COVID-19; <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/stories/courageous-health-workers-frontline-time-deadly-covid-19>

UNICEF Nepal; Teaching in a new reality; <https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/teaching-new-reality>

UNICEF Bhutan Press Release on Children increased online risks; <https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/press-releases/children-increased-online-risk-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Who to contact for **Jean Gough**  
further information: Regional Director  
Regional Office for South Asia  
Tel: +977 98510 20913  
Email: [jgough@unicef.org](mailto:jgough@unicef.org)

**Paul Rutter**  
Regional Adviser Health  
Regional Office for South Asia  
Tel: +9779801096877  
Email: [prutter@unicef.org](mailto:prutter@unicef.org)

**Carmen van Heese**  
Regional Adviser Emergency  
Regional Office for South Asia  
Tel: +9779801030064  
Email: [cvanheese@unicef.org](mailto:cvanheese@unicef.org)