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Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2021

# UNICEF in South Asia

## Regional Humanitarian Situation Report No. 22

unicef 

for every child

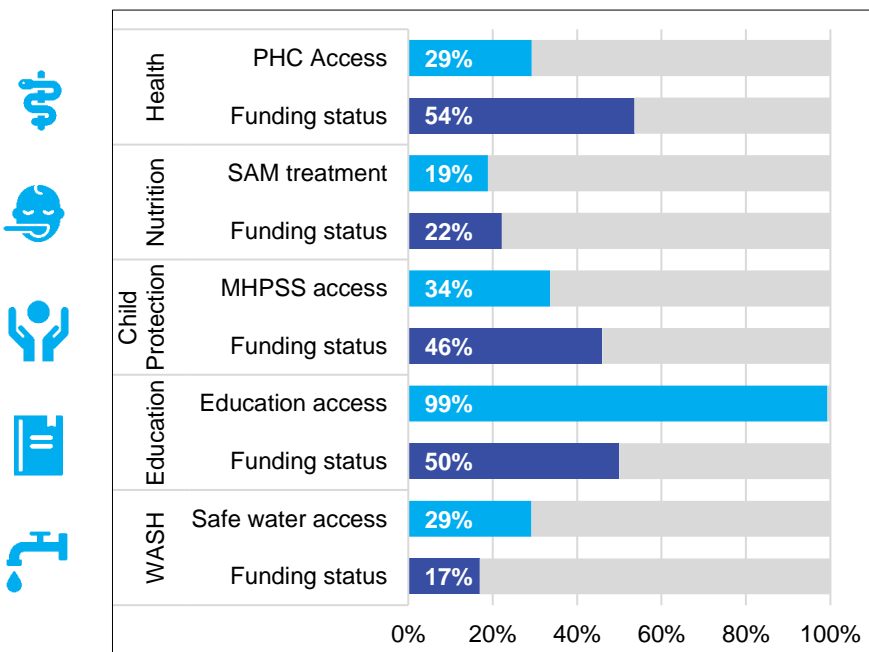
### Highlights

- The surge in the deadly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) created a dire humanitarian situation across South Asia particularly overwhelming the health systems for several weeks since early March 2021. The COVID-19 has severely disrupted the socio-economic development in Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Nationwide school closures disrupted education with consequences that may result in a roll back of substantial gains made in the past years.
- UNICEF continued to support scale-up responses of the governments, focusing on raising awareness, limiting the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating the consequences of COVID-19.
- The countries have given a high priority to vaccinate their populations with Bhutan leading in the South Asian region with over 60.3 per cent of their population fully vaccinated followed by Maldives with 49.5 percent of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021. And, 8.7 percent of Sri Lankan population has been fully vaccinated with the same timeline.
- In addition to COVID-19 responses, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia continues to provide all countries in South Asia with required technical support for emergency preparedness and response and facilitate coordination among countries and other regions related to cross-border humanitarian issues.

### Situation in Numbers

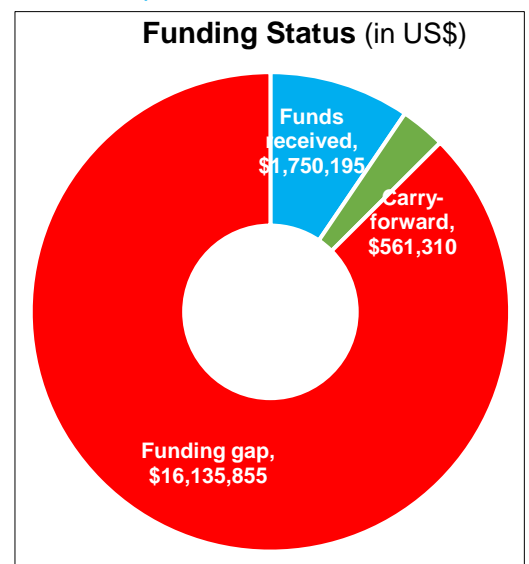
-  **5,000,000** children require safe learning environments
-  **1,000,000** Children require safe drinking water and sanitation services
-  **1,000,000** children under 5 years are malnourished
-  **500,000** people need access to health services

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status\*



### UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 18.4 million\*\*



\* Funds received by programme sections were utilised for several interventions, however the result above shows against one of the key indicators  
 \*\* Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

## Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

Given the increase in demand of humanitarian assistance largely due to the surge in COVID-19 cases in South Asia, a revision of Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), focused on Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to all country offices, is underway.

As per the original funding needs of the HAC, approximately US\$ 18.4 million is required to sustain provision of life-saving health and nutrition services for women and children; promotion of safe behaviour through mass and community level mobilisation, including hand hygiene promotion; alternate education and/or return to school; provision of child protection; and data gathering and analysis of the impact of COVID-19. The HAC appeal further covers natural disaster response for Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received and continues to rely on their generous support to cover the overall funding gap of 87 per cent, amounting to more than US\$ 16 million at the end of July, 2021.

## Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The deadly surge of COVID-19 cases caused a dire situation across South Asian countries, triggering humanitarian, socio-economic and human/child rights crises in the first half of year 2021. The speed and scale of the infection has pushed the health systems in Sri Lanka and Maldives to the brink while Bhutan also faced devastating consequences. There was a total of 383,708 confirmed cases with 4,546 deaths in all three countries by 29 July 2021. In Sri Lanka, the third wave resulted in a much higher case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.51, as opposed to the CFR of 0.64 in the second wave.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted the socio-economic development of all three countries heavily impacting tourism, the industries requiring import of materials and labour, revenue generation and employment, health, education, and protection sectors affecting the wellbeing of families, and reinforcing the divides on social inequalities.

School closures have one of the most disruptive impacts on children's lives with consequences that could lead to negative educational outcomes<sup>2</sup>. As a result of COVID-19 related restrictions, the schools' closure disrupted education largely in Sri Lanka and Maldives while schools in Bhutan were interrupted from time to time. Besides the educational challenges, there are significant impacts on children's individual and social wellbeing and their mental health, that increase the risk for children of experiencing violence at home, child labour and child marriage among other types of risky situations<sup>3</sup>. The deterioration of the protection environment exposed children to family separation, increased risks of gender-based violence, abuse, and neglect in all three countries.

## Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

At regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 transmission and mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic with government authorities and technical working groups, UN agencies including WHO, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, other UN agencies, funds and programmes, civil society organisations at national and sub-national levels, academic institutions and the private partners.

UNICEF ROSA focuses its effort on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the eight country offices in the South Asian region, government counterparts and partners by providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and inclusive humanitarian action. UNICEF ROSA is also coordinating preparedness and response options with Pakistan country office and UNICEF Regional Offices of Europe and Central Asia and Middle East and North Africa on cross-border support for Afghanistan refugees escaping the ongoing crisis.

UNICEF also supports multi-dimensional risks assessments, integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into development plans, and inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems. This includes strengthening the integration of cross-sectoral efforts to address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women, and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on gender-based violence services, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in emergencies with linkages to longer-term development efforts.

## Country - Bhutan

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Bhutan's socio-economic development has been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a complete halt of all economic activities related to the tourism industry and any industries requiring import of materials and labour, affecting the wellbeing of families and children, exacerbating pre-existing conditions and reinforcing the divides on social inequalities. It has disturbed social services in the health, education, protection sectors posing significant threats to children's well-being. Revenue generation and employment has been impacted, while nationwide school closures caused unprecedented disruptions to education with consequences that could widen the existing inequities and roll back substantial gains achieved over the years. Approximately 10,000 children needed routine vaccination, 17,370 children needed micronutrient supplementation, and at least 140,000 children needed access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.

<sup>2</sup> A Gendered Analysis of Child Protection Systems Responses in COVID-19 programming in South Asia, University of Edinburgh and UNICEF, May 2021

<sup>3</sup> A Gendered Analysis of Child Protection Systems Responses in COVID-19 programming in South Asia, University of Edinburgh and UNICEF, May 2021

Deterioration of the protection environment—and accompanying isolation policies—exposed children to family separation, increased risks of gender-based violence, abuse and neglect, while simultaneously creating a unique set of challenges in the availability and accessibility of response services. According to media reports, Thimphu police, the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) and RENEW recorded 223 gender-based violence cases during the second lockdown from December 20, 2020 to January 15, 2021. Under the Royal command of Her Majesty the Queen, His Majesty's Secretariat, desuups (volunteers), NCWC, RENEW and districts coordinated the establishment of emergency shelter homes. About 30 women along with their children sought emergency shelter in the dzongkhags, while four men were also separated from their partners and kept in a shelter home in Thimphu. The government, with the support of UNICEF and partners, has responded with strategies including: risk communication and community engagement; provision of homebased distance learning; installation of handwashing stations in public areas; provision of remote psychosocial support; trainings on Gender Based Violence (GBV); and provision of interest waivers on loans and allowances or alternative employment schemes for the unemployed. These concerted strategies will ensure the most in need are reached by lifesaving interventions.

UNICEF continues working with the government and civil society to ensure that children, young people, and their care takers are reached with lifesaving interventions. In line with the Core Commitment for Children (CCCs), the government's COVID 19 and UN-wide Response Plans, UNICEF is delivering an integrated, gender-sensitive, multisectoral response focused on the most vulnerable children and adolescents across Bhutan. Priority interventions include providing essential supplies, strengthening social service systems, and building the technical capacity of key stakeholders at all levels, in partnership with national and sub-national authorities, civil society partners, youth organizations and other UN agencies.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

- UNICEF supported the nationwide roll-out of the COVID-19 first dose vaccination launched on 27<sup>th</sup> March throughout its development and implementation phases guided by the UNICEF/WHO assisted COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan; capacity building and training of health workers; and the roll-out of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategy. The mass vaccination reached 93 per cent of the eligible adult population (or 63 per cent of its 800,000 citizens) with the first injection by the end of June 2021. It was preceded by advocacy engagement conducted virtually with local government leaders, religious leaders and young people across the country.
- UNICEF facilitated the arrival of the second dose through COVAX facility, installation of one walk-in and two ultralow freezers, and the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers on behalf of the government; as well as providing two refrigerated vans for transportation of vaccines.
- To ensure continuity of health services, UNICEF supported the procurement of 50,000 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis DTP, 164,000 doses of Tetanus and Diphtheria, 80,000 doses of Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) and 14,500 doses of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines. Between January and June 2021, 5,843 children under one year of age were immunized with DTP3 vaccine, 4,757 pregnant women availed of ANC4 visits.

### Nutrition

- UNICEF continued to support the government in implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on continuity of essential nutrition services during COVID-19 pandemic which was developed in 2020. 6,670 children aged 6-23 months received multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) supplementation.
- The National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025) was developed with the support of UNICEF and endorsed by the Ministry of Health.
- The NutriDash data on routine nutrition interventions and emergency response is updated regularly.

### Child Protection

- 140 (63 Female) school counsellors were oriented on the Welcome Back Check-in Session focusing on the safe return to schools with children of all grades using the guidance developed by the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) in collaboration with Save the Children. Since the reopening of the schools, the counsellors are rolling out the orientation for 446 class teachers (237 female) of all grades who in turn delivered sessions with their students on the first day of school or within the first week of school reopening reaching 54,094 students (19,152 female).
- To standardize the case management procedures for GBV cases, UNICEF supported the National Commission for Women and Children to develop the guidelines on case management of GBV and a training package based on the guidelines. Using the training package, 15 participants (12 female) from the three case management agencies were trained on how to provide case management services to the survivors of GBV including during emergencies in line with the guidelines and the SOP on GBV. They rolled out the training to case managers in May and it is expected that through the training, the survivors of GBV would receive quality care and support that addresses the harmful consequences of violence to help them heal and recover.
- 96 volunteers (51 female) from 16 districts have been trained virtually on the Early Identification and Safe Referral (EISR) of child protection cases and the SOP on GBV package and now have the skills and knowledge to “look, listen and link”. GBV survivors to service providers and also to identify and safely refer child protection cases to the case management agencies.

### Education

- In 2021, all schools reopened with the New Normal Curriculum (NNC), which the Royal Education Council developed and rolled out with support from UNICEF and Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding. The NNC is accompanied by instructional guidelines for teachers on how to implement it. Currently the NNC (an ICT-driven, competency-based, and textbook-less curriculum) is being implemented across the country for both contact and non-contact teaching. UNICEF acts as the coordinating agency for the GPE grant.
- However, on and off lockdown and school closures in the southern and eastern border districts due to detection of community transmission cases impacted the learning of an estimated 34,000 children (roughly equal number of boys and girls). As of June, schools in the southern border district of Samtse and the southern border town of Phuentsholing remain closed, impacting 6,330 (2,786 female and 3,554 male) and 3,820 (1,908 boys and 1,912 girls) children, respectively.

- In 2021, WASH facilities and education continuity of children with disabilities were also addressed. In 2021, UNICEF supported the provision of tablets and mobile phones to more than 700 children with disabilities enabling them to continue their education using ICT-based platforms.
- To support Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) reopening, in March and April, UNICEF provided soaps and disinfectant to every community based ECCD centre (approximately 500) across all 20 districts.
- While online learning is being implemented for the children in affected districts, poor connectivity, lack of devices, and low teacher capacity to deliver through online platforms are some of the challenges impeding learning. Similarly, successful implementation of the NNC is also challenged by teachers' capacity and readiness to deliver the new curriculum, as well as access to and quality of internet connectivity across schools in the country.
- UNICEF is currently in discussion with the Department of Information Technology of the Ministry of Education on alternatives and possibilities for ensuring improved connectivity across the country. UNICEF is acting as a convener mobilizing key partners (UNESCO, UNICEF, ITU, ADB, World Bank, EU and EIB, etc.) to the dialogue table to discuss the digitalization of learning/connectivity of schools in Bhutan through the GIGA Initiative. As a result of the initial discussions, a connectivity mapping (the first step in the GIGA process) is underway.

## WASH

- Since January 2021, UNICEF provided technical support to the government to develop Information Education Communication (IEC) materials to promote safe practices, and 4,000 hand hygiene posters and 70,000 soaps were handed to the Ministry of Education for distribution to 475 schools across the country expected to benefit 95,321 students (45,581 boys and 49,740 girls).
- The installation of handwashing stations was completed in 16 primary health care centres in three districts estimated to benefit approximately 445 daily and in eight public places in four districts estimated to reach approximately 4,660 people daily.
- While the aim is to reach all 20 districts in the country with handwashing stations, the main challenge faced is the shortage of skilled labour for fabrication of the handwashing stations and trans-shipment of raw materials due to entry restrictions.
- For infection prevention and continuity of WASH services, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health for WASH in Health Care Facilities, MoE for WASH in schools and at Monastic Institutions in addition to supporting Rural Sanitation.
- Five youth service centers in Punakha, Mongar, Gelephu, Samdrup Jongkhar, and Thimphu have been equipped with handwashing stations benefitting around 200 young people who access the centres for services daily.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in developing and implementing RCCE interventions to support the national vaccine roll out plan.
- In preparation for the first dose of vaccination, 30 chairpersons of the local government and 60 district scout secretaries and leadership scouts participated in virtual Question and Answer sessions with experts from the Health Ministry, and initiated community engagement activities in their respective communities to promote the COVID-19 vaccine.
- To promote the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, an estimated 100,000 people from remote communities in 14 of the 20 districts were reached through training and mobilizing an estimated 21,212 influential people like local government leaders, religious leaders, community health workers, school teachers, village elders, and private business persons. Further, an estimated 11,000 young people and children were reached with lifesaving messages through the scout networks.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

From The New York Times: How the Tiny Kingdom of Bhutan out-vaccinated Most of the World: The Himalayan nation has given more than 60 percent of its people a shot. Some villages were reached by helicopter, and health workers hiked through ice and snow. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/18/world/asia/bhutan-vaccines-covid.html?smid=em-share>

From ABC: Bhutan went from no jabs to being a world leader in COVID-19 vaccine rollout in three weeks. Here's how they did it. [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-17/bhutan-had-one-of-the-worlds-most-successful-coronavaccine-](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-17/bhutan-had-one-of-the-worlds-most-successful-coronavaccine-drives/100069540?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

[drives/100069540?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=mail&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-17/bhutan-had-one-of-the-worlds-most-successful-coronavaccine-drives/100069540?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

<https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/stories/year-after-its-closure-eccd-centres-are-now-open>

<https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/press-releases/unicef-and-ADB-handover-more-medical-supplies-covid-19-vaccination-and-pandemic>

<https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/stories/growing-covids-shadow>

<https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/stories/ensuring-safe-reopening-schools-so-they-can-stay-open>

<https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/stories/engaging-communities-ensure-safety-and-wellbeing-families-during-covid-19-pandemic>

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<https://www.facebook.com/BhutanUNICEF>

## Country – Maldives

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the Maldives, as community transmission of COVID-19 cases forced a lockdown in the capital, Malé in April, abruptly shutting down basic services including schools. The health services were heavily disrupted for three weeks as authorities worked out a system to continue the essential service throughout the lockdown period. This affected routine immunizations and nutritional support for children, pregnant women and new mothers living in greater Malé, where an estimated 40% of people reside. From March to July 2020, a total of 77,202 COVID-19 cases have been identified, with 2,597 currently active. The active cases are from 55 islands at sub-national level, and the urban greater Male' area.

UNICEF continued to engage with the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) coordination group, providing required technical support and guidance to the authorities on continuing the COVID-19 pandemic response based on the status of the community

spread. By mid-July 2021, the sample positivity rate has decreased to 1.7%, and new daily case numbers are observed to have decreased to a 7-day average of 119. The daily death rate has also decreased to below 1 since having peaked in May during which 40% of all deaths due to COVID-19 had occurred.

Schools in the greater Malé area and beyond have been closed since early April 2021, leaving an estimated 85,000 children from kindergarten to Grade 12 affected and catered through home-based distance learning. The school holidays are ongoing from 27th June to 8th August after which the new academic year begins for the year 2021.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

- To date, UNICEF has supported the scale-up of the COVID-19 health emergency response by providing technical and financial support, including medical supplies of (inc. oxygen therapy equipment and consumables of 500 oxygen concentrators, 550 flow meters and 550 humidified bottles) which were recently delivered to strengthen the capacity of COVID-19 medical facilities.
- UNICEF's support to Urban Health Facility helped to continue essential health services such as routine immunization to children in Male'. UNICEF's technical support to the immunization cold chain and supply system strengthening and vaccine coordination is significantly contributing to the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out process in the country.
- To date, COVID-19 vaccine coverage stands at 70% of the eligible population for the first dose, and nearly 60 % for the second dose. UNICEF continues to procure vaccines and syringes for COVID-19 vaccine, including on behalf from COVAX facility. UNICEF is helping the government expand the national cold chain capacity to store and distribute vaccines on a timely manner across the country.

### Nutrition

- UNICEF continues to promote breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic and support the urban health facility in Malé to provide nutrition interventions to children and families, in cases when growth is faltering, through the UNICEF supported public health officer.
- Overall, UNICEF's direct support placed in the urban health facility in Malé and remote technical support provided to 12 islands reached over 6,500 children and their caregivers with nutrition services since July 2020. UNICEF's support to the government included provision of virtual infant young child counselling for children whose growth is faltering, as well as healthy and responsive feeding practice information dissemination on social media.

### Child Protection, GBVIE AND PSEA

- UNICEF together with partners initiated the campaign to combat sexual violence against children and women in 2020 with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to increase services to victims. Legal support and weekly online peer support were provided to victims of GBV/Domestic Violence through the CSO Hope for Women. 596 girls and 335 boys were reached with mental health and violence prevention sessions through the CSO Advocating the Rights of the Child and Thiba Psychology, a service provider specialising in mental health services. 15 children are currently enrolled in ongoing therapy sessions. The social and behaviour change component of the campaign was activated in May 2021, the campaign by end of June has seen:
  - Audience growth on social platform: Facebook 281%; Twitter 126%; Instagram 191%
  - Interactions on social platform: Facebook 572; Twitter 818; Instagram 772
- Hashtag interactions: Twitter 396; Instagram 789, to strengthen capacity of social workers in supporting the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MoGFSS) to enhance the supervision capacity. In addition to training of supervisors, technical support for clinical supervision was provided. As such 802 supervision sessions were provided for around 70 social workers. UNICEF also continues to strengthen the Child HelpLine, and the hotlines at Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services and Maldives Police Service to increase access to reporting and to expedite response to cases of Violence against Children and GBV/Domestic Violence.

### Education

- UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) to ensure safe return to schools. As such, supplies for infection Prevention and Control are being procured for schools. To ensure continuity of learning, UNICEF supported the government in the provision of home-based learning and development for children with disabilities while also tracking and addressing the needs of vulnerable students.
- UNICEF is providing technical support to build Institutional capacity for blended learning, online pedagogy, and assessment. To address learning loss due to COVID-19, UNICEF is also providing assistance to institute remediation programs in schools.

### WASH

- UNICEF has provided funds to the MoE for the procurement of surface disinfectants and hand soap for use in schools as schools across the country have reopened with adherence to safety protocols. The MoE has initiated the procurement of the supplies. Previous batches of IPC supplies for schools have been used, resulting in prevention of COVID-19 infections in schools. So far there has been no reporting of COVID-19 cases in any of the schools in the country. Previous batches of supplies reached a total of 70,000 students and teachers in 2020. In 2021, since all the schools around the country have resumed in-person learning, a total of 76,414 students and 9,000 teachers in government schools will be reached with hygiene supplies.
- UNICEF has provided funds for procurement of hygiene supplies for the Care Development Centre managed by the NGO Care Society and Maldives Autism Association. These two institutions are learning and development centres for children with disabilities that provide structured learning programs. The centres are registered under the MoE and regarded as schools. These supplies are required to ensure resumption of in-person services, including learning, for a total of 196 children with disabilities who attend these two centers.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

- UNICEF continues to support the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) working group under the HEOC with one dedicated staff member and two consultants who work at HEOC. Outreach via press events and social media messaging are re-emphasizing the upkeep of key life-saving behaviours.
- With the arrival and administering of vaccines, UNICEF is supporting the communication aspects of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, especially on demand generation, addressing vaccine hesitancy and managing crisis communications. New series of public engagement materials are being developed with UNICEF's support including content focusing on vaccination and youth, pregnant women and people working in high-risk environments.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Maldives photo essay: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/immunization-better-child-health-trip-national-polio-campaign-team-erbil-iraq>

## Country – Sri Lanka

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

By mid-April 2021, Sri Lanka faced the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the total confirmed cases to 289,577 people with 3,917 deaths, including 12 maternity deaths by 22 July 2021. The third wave also resulted in a much higher case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.51, as opposed to the CFR of 0.64 in the second wave and 0.38 in the first wave<sup>4</sup>.

With the existing in-ward facilities to care for symptomatic patients and severe cases of COVID-19, rapidly being overwhelmed, the Ministry of Health (MoH) demarcated an additional 42 Level II and 8 Level III facilities to care for COVID-19 patients and filling the gaps in essential equipment required to function these units became the priority focus.

UNICEF supported the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) to improve COVID-19 treatment facilities, High Dependency Units (HDUs) and Intensive Care Units by providing urgent lifesaving medical equipment and supplies.

These efforts were complemented with rigorous communication and community engagement campaigns to educate the public on the vaccination and health guidelines. However, the non-health related urgent requirements due to COVID-19 continue to remain severely underfunded in Sri Lanka.

### Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### Health

- UNICEF supported the improvements in the isolation treatment hospitals, including WASH facilities, in eight hospitals and provided urgently required medical equipment, such as oxygen supplies and adult ventilators to 13 hospitals in high-risk districts.
- UNICEF supported the MoH to strengthen the cold chain management system through updating the Cold Chain Equipment (CCE) Inventory identifying the essential needs and gaps in CCE in the country to proceed with vaccine procurement. In May 2021, the first batch of CCE equipment including Ice Line Refrigerator, Freezers, Fridge Tags were delivered to the MoH.
- UNICEF supported the MoH to conduct the targeted Effective Vaccine Management Assessment (EVMA) in April with the hope of moving on to a National EVMA in September 2021.
- UNICEF supported the establishment of three HDUs for pregnant and postnatal mothers in three hospitals in the Western, Eastern and Northwestern Provinces.

#### Nutrition

- UNICEF procured 1,000 cartons of BP100 therapeutic food to maintain the essential nutrition needs of the children under five, especially the children diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), which covers merely 3% of the total needs. UNICEF's urgent nutrition responses are severely underfunded.
- Continuous capacity building of the health staff on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) is essential to maintain quality services on IYCF for the children under 5 years. Since physical trainings are restricted, UNICEF and the MoH have been developing an online self-learning IYCF training package in local languages. The Sinhala language training package was completed and is currently in the process of being piloted in the online platform. The Tamil language package is being developed with the recruitment of a technical consultant and language translators. The development of this training package was delayed due to technical difficulties and COVID-19 movement restrictions.

#### Child Protection, GBVIE AND PSEA

- UNICEF reached 625 children in lockdown areas with entertaining opportunities to ease the psychosocial impact of the lockdown by distributing family recreational kits.
- With government partners, UNICEF ensured the reunification of 56 children in childcare institutions with their families and established a monitoring mechanism for these children through the social service workforce at village level.
- UNICEF targeted 1,347 children living in 53 children's homes in the Eastern Province to provide awareness on COVID-19 safety measures and conducted risk assessments for all 53 children's homes.
- District psychosocial forums in Jaffna and Batticaloa districts were strengthened, and 512 children were supported through psychosocial first aid by trained Child Protection officers.

<sup>4</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sri Lanka - Analytics Dashboard ([health.gov.lk](https://health.gov.lk))

- UNICEF with MoH, IOM, UNFPA and the Disaster Management Center (DMC) organized an online training session for 250 government officials on camp management during the monsoon season while adhering to COVID-19 prevention measures, and child and gender friendly camp management practices.

## Education

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) developed and implemented a strategy on learning continuity and learning recovery (remedial education) for primary grades in three provinces, using a blended approach according to local conditions, which helped disadvantaged children and mitigating widening learning gaps. UNICEF and the MoE are planning for scaling and mainstreaming those models into an evidence-driven national strategy for nation-wide implementation.
- In early 2021, to support a 'Back-to-School' campaign, a child-friendly cartoon book with IPC messages in local languages was distributed to all primary schools benefiting more than 1.67 million children (851,700 girls and 818,300 boys) nation-wide.
- Due to continued school closures, around 600,000 primary students (306,000 female and 294,000 male) in all nine provinces were supported with home-based learning in various modalities (online/off-line) through the provincial education departments.
- UNICEF delivered hygiene and IPC supplies for 440 poorly resourced schools in plantation communities and other disadvantaged areas, to help strengthen their preparation for safe school reopening, benefiting around 88,000 students (51,920 female and 36,080 male).
- UNICEF, MoE and Provincial Education Departments in the North and Eastern provinces developed a package of psychosocial support tools and material for teachers to address the needs of children and teachers themselves which will be validated in these provinces by July 2021 followed by ToT.

## WASH

- UNICEF and partners strengthened the community-based water management systems through capacity building for water safety planning, emergency preparedness and response for both natural and health emergencies as well as ensuring water quality at community water supply schemes.
- UNICEF together with the Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health and Food Safety of the MoH strengthened the healthcare waste management system and policies through developing detailed training modules for healthcare facilities, targeting both medical staff and waste management staff. It includes separate chapters on general waste, infectious, pathological waste, waste and sharps, COVID-19 waste management, occupational health and safety and policies, and laws and regulations related to the healthcare waste management.
- UNICEF conducted hygiene promotion programmes reaching 10,000 people in low-income urban settlements including handwashing promotion and installation of handwashing points at the entrance of 22 low-income urban settlements.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

- UNICEF supported MoH to promote visibility to the National Vaccine Deployment Plan focused on the activities around the COVAX and COVID-19 vaccination through digital and social media engagement, reaching over 5.7 million people with over 38,000 views and 55,000 engagements.
- 15 million people across the country were reached through an awareness campaign on COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior (CAB) on four leading national television.
- UNICEF developed a Community Engagement and Social Mobilization Strategy as a component of the overall National Covid-19 Vaccine Communication Strategy and supported MoH to convene a forum of Civil Society Organizations to inform and engage them in Community Engagement interventions.
- UNICEF and partners disseminated risk communication messages and promotion of protective practices through the public address systems reaching 3 million highly vulnerable people in urban and plantation areas in Eastern, Central, and Uva provinces.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Sri Lanka photo essay: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/immunization-better-child-health-trip-national-polio-campaign-team-erbil-iraq>

## Next SitRep: 31 August 2021

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## Summary of Programme Results

### Country- Bhutan

Sector	Overall needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2021 Target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
<b>Nutrition</b>							
No of children receiving micronutrient powder supplementation	20,000	15,000	6,670				
<b>Health</b>							
No. of health workers have access to personal protection equipment to prevent COVID-19 transmission		500	500				
# of pregnant mothers accessing ANC 4 visit		8,000	4,757				
# of children aged 0-11 months vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis		10,000	5,843				
<b>WASH</b>							
No. of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services		50,000	100,426 <sup>5</sup>				
<b>Child Protection</b>							
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support		50,000	54,237 <sup>6</sup>				
<b>Education</b>							
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning		171,000	168,000				
<b>C4D</b>							
# of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		20,000	0				

### Country-Maldives

Sector Indicator   Disaggregation	Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
<b>Health</b>							
Children 0-6 months receive 3 doses of DTP-containing vaccine		2,500	978				
Pregnant women provided with antenatal consultations		2,000	N/A				
Health workers have access to personal		5,000	2,500 <sup>7</sup>				

<sup>5</sup> 95,321 students (45,581 boys and 49,740 girls) benefited from soaps, 445 people with handwashing stations at PHCs and 4,660 people with public handwashing stations.

<sup>6</sup> Children: 54,219 (19,223 Female); Caregivers: 18 (9 Female)

<sup>7</sup> PPE items such as masks and shields for 2,500 Health Workers were provided for 3 months.



protection items /equipment to prevent COVID-19 transmission								
<b>Nutrition</b>								
Caregivers of children aged 0-23 months receive IYCF services and reliable information			2,000	488 <sup>8</sup>				
<b>Child Protection</b>								
No of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based MHPSS Services			1000	87				
No of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse			1500	809				
<b>Education</b>								
No. of children supported with distance/home based learning			83,000	76,481				
No of schools implementing safe school COVID-19 protocols			213	213				
<b>WASH</b>								
No of people reached with critical WASH supplies and services for prevention and control			90,512	28,127				

## Country-Sri Lanka

Country-Sri Lanka			UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
			2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼
Indicator	Sector Disaggregation	Total needs	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼
<b>Health</b>								
# healthcare facility staff and community health workers provided with PPE, including essential medical equipment and WASH supplies		11,200	6,000	4,500				
# mothers, children & people with confirmed/suspected COVID-19 have timely access to essential health services		250,000	150,000	42,000				
<b>Nutrition</b>								
# children aged 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders		900,000	750,000 <sup>9</sup>	0				
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling		800,000	800,000	0				
# of children with SAM have access to treatment with BP-100		25,600	25,600	1,000				

<sup>8</sup> The number refers caregivers (237 male and 251 female) from Jan – May 2021

<sup>9</sup> 382 girls and 367,500 boys

Child Protection								
# children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support		200,000	30,000	316 <sup>10</sup>				
# children supported through improvements in violence and GBV case management and alternative care including deinstitutionalization			5,000	217				
Education								
# students (estimate, 50% girls) supported with learning recovery and school drop-out mitigation			1,200,000	1,200,000 <sup>11</sup>				
# teachers have increased skills on blended teaching/learning, learning recovery and psychosocial support			41,000	5,000				
# children receiving individual learning material			600,000	0				
WASH								
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services		800,000	300,000 <sup>12</sup>	0				
# of children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces			50,000	0				
# people reached with hand-washing behavior-change programmes			200,000	120,000				
Social Protection								
# households benefit from new or additional social transfers from the GoSL with UNICEF's technical assistance support	Households		300,000	0				
C4D, AAP & Community Engagement								
# people reached through messaging on access to services			2,000,000	3,000,000				
# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)			5,000	1,750				

<sup>10</sup> 197 girls 119 boys

<sup>11</sup> 612,000 girls and 588,000 boys

<sup>12</sup> 45,900 girls, 44,100 boys, 107,100 women and 102,900 men

## Funding Status by Country\*\*\*

COUNTRY – Bhutan							
Sector	Requirements	Funds available				Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Humanitarian Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	Other resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Health	2,300,000	0	0	899,849		1,400,151	61
Nutrition	300,000	0	0	0		300,000	100
Child Protection	480,000	100,000	0	70,298	0	309,702	65
Education	550,000	0	0	31,053 <sup>13</sup>		518,947	99
WASH	800,000	0	0	0		800,000	100
Social Protection	100,000	0	0	13,000		87,000	87
C4D, AAP, Community Engagement	300,000	0	0	87,653		212,327	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,830,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,101,873</b>		<b>3,628,127</b>	<b>75</b>

COUNTRY – Maldives							
Sector	Requirements	Funds available				Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Humanitarian Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	Other resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Health	977,160	752,925	161,359	0	0	62,876	6
Nutrition	389,400	0	316,484	0	0	72,916	19
WASH	1,115,800	359,047	0	0	0	756,753	68
Education	820,800	86,390	674,974	0	0	59,436	7
Child Protection	999,600	225,019	392,268	0	0	382,313	38
Social Protection	304,600	85,000	102,804	0	0	116,796	38
C4D, AAP, Community Engagement	460,000	260,858	0	0	0	199,142	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,067,360</b>	<b>1,769,238</b>	<b>1,647,890</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,650,232</b>	<b>33</b>

COUNTRY – Sri Lanka							
Sector	Requirements	Funds available				Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Humanitarian Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	Other resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Health	600,000	170,688	91,391	0	0	337,921	56
Nutrition	1,220,000	50,000	56,700	0	0	1,113,300	91
WASH	500,000	50,000	0	0	0	450,000	90
Education	380,000	50,000	32,132	0	0	297,868	78
Child Protection	300,000	30,000	0	0	0	270,000	90
Social Protection	600,000	30,000	0	0	0	570,000	95
C4D, AAP, Community Engagement	900,000	20,000	25,000	0	0	855,000	95
Coordination	100,000	20,000	25,000	0	0	55,000	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>420,688</b>	<b>230,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,949,089</b>	<b>86</b>

\*\*\* Country offices have reprogrammed some of their regular and other resources to be able to support emergency interventions and the reprogrammed amounts will be replenished when emergency funds are received.

<sup>13</sup> This amount is less than what was reported earlier as the SC funding from LEGO Denmark has been removed from this calculation.