



31 August 2020

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# Middle East & North Africa Region COVID-19

Situation Report No. 9



for every child

## Highlights

- As of August 30, over 1.5 million cases were reported in the MENA region, out of which 220,834 are active and 40% are new. A slight fall in deaths was observed for the first time since March.
- UNICEF adopted a twin-track risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) approach on COVID-19 prevention and demand revitalization of services, particularly health and education. To date, approximately 270 million people have been reached and 37 million engaged, while around 680,000 have provided feedback.
- UNICEF reached around 12.5 million people with critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies (i.e. hygiene kits, soap and hand sanitizers) more than 120,00 healthcare workers received personal protective equipment (PPEs) in 13 countries, and close to 10,000 people have been trained in infection prevention control (IPC).

## Situation in Numbers



**COVID-19 cases:**  
**1,619,554 cases.**  
220,834 active cases



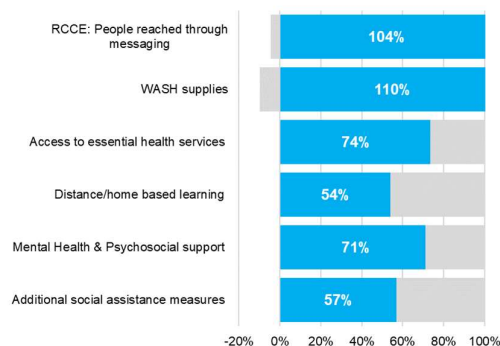
**Death toll:**  
**44,418 deaths**



**US\$164 million**  
funding gap for UNICEF regional response

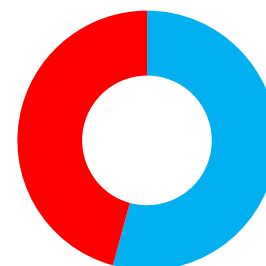
- Countries further ensure continuity of health & nutrition services (under 5.5 million women/children reached; under 7,500 individuals trained in managing COVID-19 cases; PPE/IPC stocks replenished in Lebanon). Over 2 million caregivers have also received messages on breastfeeding, and under 200,000 children received severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment. This represents a drop compared to the same time period in 2019, due to lower demand for services, driven by fear of contagion, discontinuation of mobile services and a drop in partner reporting.
- Schools reopened fully, partially, online or in a hybrid way in most of the countries in August, while Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman and Libya extended closure due to floods, increasing COVID-19 cases, school-related transmissions. UNICEF reached under 4 million children as part of continuous education, further supported national examinations for 2019-2020 and launched the Teachers' Preparedness Training Package for the new year.
- Close to 13,000 individuals have been served with alternative care arrangements, while mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) has reached under 315,000 children, parents and primary caregivers. Moreover, over 3,500 UNICEF personnel and partners have completed gender-based violence (GBV) training while over 135,000 children and adults have been given protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) channel access.
- To date, over 65,000 households have received a humanitarian cash grant, and under 12 million households have benefited from new or additional social assistance measures, as part of UNICEF's support to governments' expansion of shock responsive social protection programs.

## Summary of Programme Response Targets



## Funding Status (US\$)

**Funding Gap, \$164.09M**



**Funding Received, \$194.51M**

## Situation Overview

As of 30 August, the region has dealt with 1,619,554 total cases, 44,418 deaths and 220,834 active cases since the start of the epidemic. Since the last reporting period, 376,331 are new (30.2%) cases and a slight decline of deaths was observed for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

Iraq (31%) and Iran (16%) reported most new cases and 60% of fatalities in the region for the reporting period. In Iran, the number of deaths was divided by 1.7 in two weeks due to the Kurdistan Region's ease of movement restrictions and opening of border crossing points, while new cases have started to fall smoothly over the last month. After a spike of new cases early August, Iraq has reached a plateau at around 25,000 new cases and more than 500 deaths weekly.

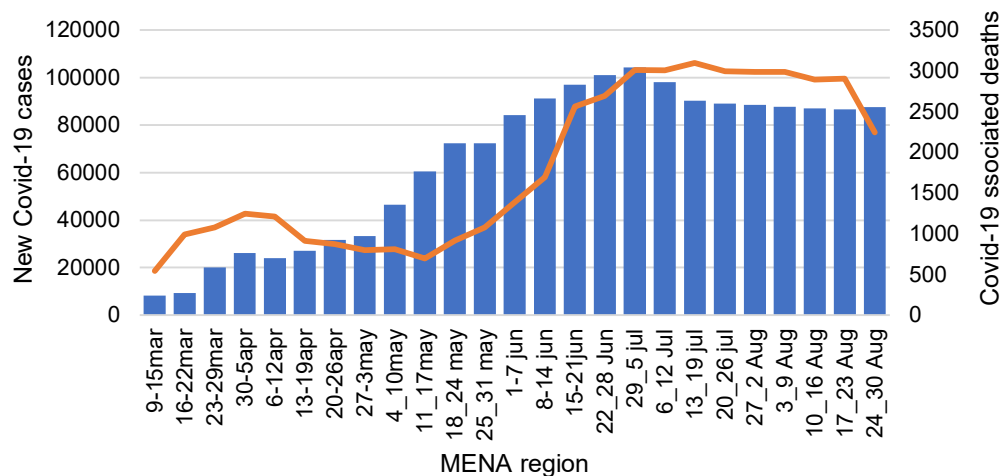
Other countries, such as Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan, have registered sharp increases in the number of cases over the last month. The easing of restrictions and borders opening have favoured population movements, and subsequently the virus circulation among the population. While the number of deaths remain low and most of new cases are asymptomatic, the situation could deteriorate rapidly, if people are not compliant with preventive measures in a context going back to normal and with schools reopening.

In Palestine, the level of new cases (3,000 weekly) reached in early July has been maintained over the summer. Despite continuous community transmission, fatalities remain low. Despite a continuous decrease of new cases and deaths, the high case fatality ratio over the past four weeks in Sudan (6.2%), Yemen (28.8%) Egypt (5.5%) and Algeria (3.4%), suggests that cases are under-diagnosed.

With a very limited number of new cases and deaths over the month, Djibouti, Qatar and Algeria appear to have controlled their epidemic.

While already affected by the epidemic and economic crisis, a devastating explosion – reported caused by ammonium nitrated stored in a warehouse – occurred in Lebanon on 4 August, that led to the loss of human lives and destruction of houses and infrastructures. Two weeks later, a spike of new cases was recorded, reaching 4,000 cases weekly at the end of August (UNICEF Lebanon, [Situation Report](#), 26 August, 2020). Even if the number of associated deaths remains low, the situation is worrisome considering the current fragile situation in Lebanon.

### Weekly active cases (total – deaths – recovered) in the MENA region – 9 March to 30 August



## Socio-Economic Impact and Humanitarian Needs

As the MENA region is projected to have negative economic growth of 5.7% in 2020, the projected downturn for conflict-affected countries is even more severe by reaching as much as 13% (ESCWA, [Policy Brief](#), July 2020). Recent spikes have driven some countries to reinstate curfews and lockdown measures (Lebanon, Jordan), with the potential to further exacerbate the socio-economic situation for the most vulnerable children. Lebanon already facing a recession, a financial and economic meltdown and political instability since October 2019, witnessed a massive explosion of Beirut's port. The cost of physical damage estimated between US\$ 3.8-4.6 billion (UN, WB, EU, [Rapid Assessment](#), 2020). The headcount poverty rate is expected to jump from 28% in 2019 to 55 % ([ESCWA, Poverty in Lebanon, August 2020](#)). An assessment of COVID-19 impacts on poverty in Iraq highlighted that loss of jobs and rising prices will push an additional 4.5 million people below the poverty line. Today 2 of out 5 children are poor ([UNICEF Iraq, WB, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and Iraq Ministry of Planning](#)), twice as much as the situation prior to the COVID epidemic. In Syria and Sudan, devaluations of local currencies take a dent in the purchasing power of households, making high quality nutritious foods unaffordable for many.

As information fatigue and frustrations grow among populations, coupled especially with decreasing risk perceptions in countries with slowing rates of transmission or high risk humanitarian situations, there is a major need for COVID-19 prevention efforts to be adjusted and accelerated for sustained practice of risk-reduction behaviours. Simultaneously, several countries are also witnessing significant reductions in intake of health and social services. RCCE efforts are addressing fears of infection and stigma that are contributing to drops in service utilization, and re-build trust of populations in these services.

In August, ministries in the region continued preparing for the start of the new academic year 2020/2021 by opening schools fully, partially, on-line or in a hybrid way. In this month, partial reopening of schools materialized in Palestine (Gaza), Kuwait, Syria (curriculum B), Algeria (for exam preparation classes) and Libya. While Saudi Arabia and UAE started the new school year with full reopening on the 30th of August, in other countries even if dates for school reopening have been tentatively set, actual dates will depend on the evolution of the pandemic. The needs are high, particularly in countries affected by crisis and conflict, in terms of: i) funding to ensure that teachers will receive their monthly salary (i.e. Yemen) and receive incentives for additional work if needed; ii) funding to scale up WASH in schools (all countries); iii) capacity building for education administrators, school personnel and parents to ensure teaching and learning continues safely; iv) self-instructive teaching and learning materials to facilitate a hybrid approach to learning; v) free devices and connectivity to reach all; and finally, vi) incentives/measures to ensure all children come back, particularly targeting adolescents who will need to stay back and support family income.

In a phone survey on the impact of COVID-19 on children in 5 selected countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, Qatar) 53% of respondents reported that the children in their households have been struggling mentally and emotionally during the epidemic. Furthermore, 48 percent reported that the most negative effect of the pandemic on the children was deprivation of outdoor play and social interaction, whereas 39 percent voiced concerns on impacting their education followed by 37 percent who indicated increased anxiety and fear among children related to the virus. Fifty-one percent of the respondents also reported a perceived increase in 'misbehavior' among children during the outbreak.

Sudan and Yemen are starting to experience multiple disease outbreaks and have reported cases of circulating vaccine derived polio virus (cVDPV) and measles.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF has adopted a twin-track RCCE approach to promote COVID-19 prevention and demand revitalization of services, particularly health and education. Campaign calendars have been prepared to align and sequence messaging to prioritise and normalize wearing of masks, frequent handwashing and physical distancing; counter fears of infection; and promote optimism and confidence in services. On-ground outreach and community engagement efforts particularly at the sub-national level as well as mobilization of local leaders, networks and key influencers are being scaled up. RCCE Frontline workforce training and socio-behavioral evidence-generation is being strengthened to inform changes in strategies. To date, approximately 270 million people have been reached and 37 million engaged on both themes. In Sudan, seven campaigns on COVID-19, dengue and polio prevention as well as back-to-school reached 12 million people and engaged 400,000. In Iraq, campaigns for COVID-19 focusing on Eid-Al-Adha, and back-to-school reached 33.3 million. In Yemen, simultaneous campaigns for COVID-19, back-to-school and polio have been planned for roll-out. In Syria, UNICEF and WHO supported the Ministries of Health and Information to re-launch a COVID-19 public awareness campaign and design a national public opinion survey in order to further reinforce awareness and behaviors, besides promoting back-to-school campaigns. Trainings and awareness/hygiene promotion sessions have been delivered to health workers, volunteers, and community leaders, including in the Al-Hol camp. In the North-West, UNICEF reached 218,192 people/caregivers, and engaged 8,813 people in COVID-19 related discussions through social media. Additionally, 91,359 IDPs were reached in Idleb and Aleppo through messaging and hygiene practice awareness sessions in 114 camps and informal settlements.

To ensure learning continuity, UNICEF supported remote learning in all MENA countries, reaching nearly 3.9 million children by the end of August. Education teams across the region, have been supporting national examinations (i.e. Algeria, State of Palestine, Yemen and Syria) through disinfection of schools, conducting awareness raising activities and distribution of protective equipment to learners and teachers. In addition, UNICEF has been supporting continuity of learning across the region into the new school year 2020/2021. For instance, (i) in Iraq, UNICEF supported the launch of the first online learning platform in the country, (ii) in Libya and Sudan, support was provided to record online lessons for children for broadcast in addition to distributing paper-based formats and (iii) teacher trainings on safe school protocol and online learning were conducted in Libya, Iraq, Jordan and State of Palestine. As part of the preparation for the start of the new academic year, UNICEF Regional Office launched the Teachers Preparedness Training Package. The self-paced training package that can be adapted to local contexts serves as an additional resource for teachers and addresses both school operation in terms of safety measures and missed and regressed learning. The package includes a well-being and protection module, based on a psychological first aid approach (Look, Listen, Link) and explores the relationship between well-being, teaching, and learning. It discusses violence against children both in and out of the classroom, and how to identify a child in distress, intervene, and refer. The three-module self-learning guide for teachers has been designed in work-book style with avatars Sarah and Faris guiding teachers on how to adjust to new polices upon returning to school amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes quizzes and a self-evaluation and planning tool to help teachers reflect on what they learned and what they still need to learn, encouraging them to keep learning. The package is available in English, Arabic, and French. See <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/ready-come>

[back](#). Countries in the region continue to ensure health and nutrition service delivery by adapting the new COVID-19 context guidelines and ensuring Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are in place to maintain quality of care for mothers, newborn infants and children. After the devastating explosion in Lebanon, UNICEF increased its PPE and IPC stocks to replace the destroyed stock and continues to provide essential maternal, newborn, and child health services while COVID-19 cases were on rise. Furthermore, restoring community trust in public health services continues to be a core priority. Significant progress has been reported in Syria and Yemen, where immunized services have resumed, protecting nearly 2.8 million children against vaccine preventable diseases through campaigns. UNICEF also supports outbreak response campaign in Yemen and Sudan, mainly on vaccine management and C4D. While more children were reached through nationwide measles and polio campaigns in Yemen and Syria in 2019, the decline in 2020 is driven by postponement of some of the earlier planned campaigns.

In nutrition, nearly 2.1 million caregivers have been reached with messages on breastfeeding to date and around 194,000 children aged 6-59 months have been admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to date. While the monthly target varies based on seasonality, Yemen and Sudan – representing the largest contribution with regards to reach – reached 43% of the annual target for both countries (561,000 people). UNICEF continued to support countries in adapting service delivery to the COVID-19 context by reducing the number of visits by families or increasing the provision of therapeutic foods. Simplified protocols for treatment of SAM are being considered in countries like Syria and Yemen, such as trainings for mother-led mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screenings.

UNICEF reached 12 million individuals with critical WASH supplies in the form of hygiene kits, soap and hand sanitizers, with Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria at the forefront. A total of 122,484 healthcare workers have also received PPEs (including gloves and masks) in eleven countries, led by Egypt Iraq and Lebanon. 9,709 people further received IPC training as part of its first phase. During the reporting period, UNICEF MENA regional office – with support from the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) – continued to monitor COVID-19 WASH responses taken by 14 countries across the region, with a focus on countries where UNICEF have active WASH programmes. The monitoring now evolved from focusing on the immediate lockdown and response phase to also taking into consideration measures taken by countries in terms of de-escalation and adjusting to the COVID-19 situation. This includes monitoring measures to strengthen institutional WASH support, such as for safe school reopening, ensure willingness to pay for WASH services and related financial support mechanisms for WASH service providers unable to recover costs, among others. Results will be available in September. IPC protocols are also being tailored to the region (school and health facilities' protocols completed; camps protocol is being drafted and home quarantine protocol is being finalized).

UNICEF continues to support the implementation of expanded emergency cash transfer responses in countries whilst increasingly focusing on efforts to strengthen shock-responsive social protection systems. UNICEF's work in countries such as Tunisia, Jordan and Iraq are illustrative of this approach. In terms of coverage, thanks to UNICEF support, as of end August, almost 12 million households have benefited from new or additional national social assistance measures. Similarly, over 10,000 households have received humanitarian cash grants during this period. The focus for UNICEF's engagement with governments has been on advocacy and operational support for the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, female headed households, households with children under 5 and informal workers (e.g. Djibouti, Syria, Iraq, Morocco)—this has been coupled with technical assistance on improving systems (reviewing eligibility, examining opportunities on data systems and data protection). For countries that are experiencing additional multiple shocks such as currency fluctuations and the sharp decrease in oil prices or the impact of sanctions (e.g. Lebanon, Syria, Libya), UNICEF is implementing and/or designing humanitarian cash transfers to meet the needs of children in the immediate term. At the regional level, a [Mapping of national Social Protection responses to COVID-19 in MENA](#) has been launched by the regional UN Issue Based Coalition on Social Protection, with significant UNICEF support.

## UNICEF Country Offices Programme Response

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

### Algeria

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In the reporting period, UNICEF reached over 28 million people and engaged approximately 200,000 followers through social media messaging on safe practices, parenting, and stigma.

#### Supporting access to education, child protection and GBV services

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in the organization of safe high-stake exams planned in September 2020 through the purchase of individual protection products such as reusable masks and hygiene kits for the benefit of 400,000 students aged from 14 to 18 years and education staff for 1,000 exam centers in the most marginalized regions.
- UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Education in the preparation of the Safe Back to School, planned in early October for all students, through:
  - The elaboration of the Safe Back to School campaign targeting school-aged children and parents through a video and radio spots and a 13 minutes documentary on the sanitation protocol applied in



- schools, edition and printing of communication materials on hygiene and physical distancing measures in the 29,000 schools nationwide;
- Capacity building activities for all primary and intermediate schoolteachers and guidance counsellors on mental health and psychosocial support to strengthen support services for students with special needs upon their return to school via the training of 30 trainers and courses available on the Ministry of Education website; and
- The adaptation of the teachers training package developed by the MENARO related to schools' safe operations, learning equity, well-being and protection.
- Technical support to MoE in the piloting phase of the digital classroom programme in the framework of developing the learning blended approach.
- UNICEF is also supporting the Sahrawi refugee education sector in the preparation of the Safe Back to School, in the five camps through the purchase of individual protection products such as reusable masks and hygiene kits for the benefit of 40,000 students.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Sahrawi Red Crescent, launched psychosocial support activities during summer for the benefit of the Sahrawi refugee children by organizing drawing and writing workshops.

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

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening COVID-19 diagnosis capacity of Algeria Pasteur Institute with 50 000 COVID-19 diagnostic kits provided through supply division as well as specific equipment necessary to the national laboratory (Magnets).

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported Saharawi health actors in the management of COVID-19 cases with the supply of 20 oxygen concentrators from the supply division

## Djibouti

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- During the reporting period, over 61,996 people were reached via social media platforms, specifically Facebook, including over 13,000 followers for the UNICEF Djibouti page. The effort involved the use of 17 digital communication materials, designed to enhance COVID-19 prevention messages during World Breastfeeding week (1- 7 August 2020). Additionally, UNICEF virtually participated in the World Mask Day, which had high social media engagement, with children at the forefront showcasing the proper way of wearing and disposing of used masks, contributing to save the environment, and to curb the reuse of contaminated masks. 46,450 people have been effectively engaged through social media in this regard.
- UNICEF is partnering with the Ministries of Health, and Women and Family, NGO partners and private sector to establish a RapidPro platform to improve data collection and regular feedback from beneficiaries.
- A back to school campaign is underway to accompany opening of schools, and the COVID-19 KAP surveys has been updated to include assessment of attitudes, perceptions, fears and trust linked to return of children and adolescents to schools

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

- The national safe back-to-school plan developed with the Ministry of Education is under implementation prior to the school re-opening in September 2020;
- The office supports in ensuring health protocol to be applied in all schools before and during the re-opening, handwashing with soap stations set up together with the provision of soap, alcoholic solutions in all schools, masks to school children of low and upper secondary levels.
- In partnership with Caritas, UNICEF integrated support including food assistance, health care and family reunification services reached children in street situations, children on the move and separated and unaccompanied children, 11 migrant children benefit from family placement, 15 family reunifications and identification of 28 families.
- In partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) the programme supported refugee children as follows: 175 refugee children (94 boys and 81 girls) reached with protection services; 57 children (38 boys and 19 girls) with specialized needs benefited therapy sessions and; 13 women in foster families supported on positive and responsive caregiving.

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

- Additional 370 migrants reached with WASH services in the quarantine camp in Ali Sabieh;
- Additional 60 handwashing stations with soap set up in several public areas in Djibouti city and surroundings to keep up with the handwashing with soap practice;
- Additional 5 water pumps are procured to keep improving the access to water in the rural areas.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- Additional 10,000 COVID-19 test kits are procured to keep improving the COVID-19 testing capacities;

- IPC and supplies for the case management of COVID-19 are distributed throughout the country;
- IPC training of health care providers is launched to keep creating and maintaining a safer environment in health facilities for delivering health and nutrition services;
- UNICEF DCO support to keep the continuity of health and nutrition services within the on-going COVID-19 context includes the intensification of field monitoring and supervision of activities with the full consideration of barriers measures.

### Social protection and social sector financing

- Cumulatively 3,917 vulnerable families were reached as the UNICEF contribution to the food voucher programme set up by the government to mitigate the consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of families to be reached by the government and partners is approximately 65,000. UNICEF provides direct financial assistance to Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities for the food voucher programme. The Ministry works on the technical aspects such as targeting, the delivery mechanism and all grievance mechanisms. UNICEF continues to advocate for the assistance to be targeted to primarily poor families with under 5 children, families with pregnant and lactating women, and female headed households.
- Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 response, UNICEF is taking the opportunity to advocate for a social protection contingency plan. Djibouti is a shock prone context and the environment is conducive for systems strengthening work.

## Egypt

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The Joint Masks and Stigma Campaign, co-implemented by UNICEF with the Ministry of Health and Population as well as UN agencies, ended on 22 July; it reached approximately 3.1 million people and engaged 234,000.<sup>1</sup>
- The ongoing UNICEF's Breastfeeding Campaign launched on 11 August reached approximately 4.9 million people and engaged 329,000. Campaign includes tips on how to breastfeed and take care of children from 0-2 years old, as well as advocates for natural breastfeeding and healthy eating.<sup>2</sup>
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population to reach 215,792 families on health and nutrition best practices for pregnant and lactating mothers, through interactive consultations, and via the MoHP 1000 Days Facebook page - approximately 72,040 people (76% women) engaged,
- Through the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), UNICEF reached 12,287 girls and boys and engaged 1,003 women (56%) via Facebook to promote positive gender roles and healthy practices. Furthermore, 8,127 people and 1,412 (69% women) were reached and engaged respectively via the Egyptian Youth Initiative Facebook page, on COVID-19 parenting and peer support.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) in interacting with most vulnerable families using RapidPro reaching additional 29,572 households on prevention. Over 60 social workers from MoSS have been trained in positive parenting.

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

- A total of 10,768 textbooks and educational supplies were distributed and reached 3,644 vulnerable children to support with their distance/home-based learning. Among them, 2,637 to Egyptian students (2,068 female) enrolled in community schools in Assiut, Upper Egypt, and 1,007 are Syrian refugees (440 female) in Greater Cairo and Alexandria (The cumulative total reached since the beginning of the pandemic is 9,719 students (6,362 female)).
- 50 young adolescents have completed two online trainings sessions under the Meshwary programme. First a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment training aimed at mainstreaming awareness raising messages on the abandonment of FGM and its legality, psychological and physical consequences; 25 young participants (15 females), Second, a Youth Led Initiatives training attended by 25 young participants (20 Females), focusing on the role youth initiatives to overcome economic deterioration.
- A total of 4,493 children and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support; 3,861 through emergency programmes 174 through Ministry of Social Solidarity's (MoSS) case management units, and 458 through partnering NGOs providing specialized services to Egyptian children.<sup>3</sup> In addition, 1,496 children were provided with psychosocial messaging through the emergency programmes<sup>4</sup> whilst over 3,700 calls to families of the government's Takaful and Karama cash transfers programme.
- Child protection stakeholders trained 2 participants on GBV mitigation (reaching a cumulative of 100 participants). In addition, child protection capacity-building packages, on psychosocial support, positive parenting, remote case management, and child safeguarding, continued to be provided, reaching a cumulative of 285.

<sup>2</sup> Since the beginning of the COVID-19 campaigns, the total number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services is 58,576,533 and total number of people engaged through RCCE actions is 2,918,929

<sup>3</sup> Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, MHPSS services were provided to a cumulative of 20,541 (17,727 through emergency programmes, 886 through MoSS case management units, and 1,928 through other partnering NGOs). Note: data for MoSS case management units is only until mid-July 2020.

<sup>4</sup> The cumulative of PSS messages reaches 32,891 persons.

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

- UNICEF delivered to the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) warehouse 2,000 liters of chlorine (62,000 liters in total), ensuring a sustainable and reliable supply of disinfectants to additional 66 primary health care centers nationwide (total 3,266 facilities), with an estimated coverage of additional 52,800 beneficiaries (cumulative 2,452,800 people)<sup>5</sup>. In addition, UNICEF delivered 400 bottles (500 ml) of hand liquid soap, 3,837 Liter of 70% alcohol hand gel, 200 Liter of Floor liquid soap and 7000 disposable red plastic bags.
- UNICEF delivered more than 1,418,000 pairs of gloves, 1,188,000 surgical masks, 2,000 N95 masks, 142,740 gowns in support to MoHP. Additional 50,000 gloves, 176,000 gowns, 8,050 surgical masks, 100 face shields and 50 N95 masks for the health facilities nationwide to serve about 25,171 health providers (cumulatively 81,173 health workers).

## Continuity of health care services for women and children

- At the request of the MOHP, UNICEF facilitated additional 22 online trainings and face to face training for 1,207 managers and health professionals, including training of 350 health staff on infection prevention and control, training of 520 health staff on Prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), 137 of frontline health providers on patient flow in care facilities and protocol for referral of suspected COVID-19 cases. In addition, face to face training was conducted to 200 vaccinators on safe vaccination during COVID-19.
- An estimated 125,931 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages through social media and community platforms (cumulative 334,579 caregivers).
- An estimated 217,440 women and children received essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities (138,942 children) benefited from immunization and growth monitoring, 2,622 children benefited from Integrated Management of Childhood Illness IMCI, while 32,668 women benefitted from post-natal services and 43,208 from antenatal care).

## Social protection and social sector financing

- Minister of Finance, in collaboration with UNICEF, officially launched a transparency brief on the new public budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The brief highlights how the preparedness and expenditure related to COVID-19.
- The government has pledged 100 billion EGP (US\$6.3bn) to support the adopted comprehensive presidential plan to 1) combat COVID-19, 2) alleviate burdens on affected industries and 3) ease the financial burden on less advantaged citizens. This plan includes measures such as: special allowance for pensioners for 31 billion EGP (US\$1.9bn), increasing tax exemption limits (estimated to cost 5 billion Egyptian Pounds); increasing allocation for Takaful and Karama (1 billion EGP/US\$63.3m) and new allocations for social housing for 5.7 billion EGP (US\$36m), among others. The brief, and an accompanying the video, were launched on a twitter and LinkedIn campaign as part of the “Budget transparency series” in efforts to enhance transparency.
- The government’s Takaful and Karama cash transfer programme (TKP) has added 18,107 new families, since July, showing the continued efforts to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19 cumulative figures is 227,656 families.
- Technical support provided by UNICEF to MoSS (on COVID-19 social protection responses) has also resulted in new measures to facilitate social insurance contributions, for casual workers, as well as new protocols for electronic payments of pensions. MoSS has also initiated an effort to clean, digitize, and migrate legacy data and benefits of these 1.5 million casual workers, in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower
- One-time humanitarian grants were expanded to an additional 141 households in order to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis’ economic pressures, reaching a cumulative of 634.

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

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Under the aegis of the Supreme Crisis Management Committee in Qatar that oversees the national COVID-19 response UNICEF in Qatar and its partner Qatar Charity have launched a third national campaign to address the impact of COVID-19 on families and children, focus on positive parenting. The campaigns targets over 2 million people with localized communication materials through social media, and Public Service Announcements through local media.

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

- UNICEF GAO in UAE with support from the MENARO introduced the Teacher Preparedness Training Package (TPTP) to the Ministry of Education (MoE), in advance of schools reopening on 30 August. Attended the consultation were senior authorities as well as specialists focused on child protection and child psychology. UNICEF and the MOE will work collaboratively on the adaptation of the package and discuss any further training needs necessary for a roll-out.
- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs with support of UNICEF has issued detailed plans concerning safety measures in place during the Back to Learning programme for nurseries.

<sup>5</sup> In total, the supply of disinfectants covered 3,266 primary health care centers nationwide, with an estimated coverage of 2,452,800 people.

- UNICEF GAO in UAE provided technical support in reviewing the criteria for licensing Child Protection Specialists in educational institutions. This effort builds on prior collaboration with MOE to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment by addressing key issues such as bullying in schools, health and nutrition, and life skills and will facilitate attention to emerging protection concerns arising as children return to schools in the context of COVID-19.

## Iran

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- During the reporting period 16 online communication materials, and over 600 Instagram stories, were disseminated through UNICEF's website, YouTube, Aparat (Iranian YouTube), Facebook, Instagram (now has 277,000 followers), Twitter, and local Goodwill Ambassador's account, UNICEF's supported adolescent wellbeing clubs, private sector donors as well as local media.
- Approximately, 21,950,080 and 6,626,009 individuals were reached (49% female) and engaged, respectively, through UNICEF's online communication channels. This represents 30% increase in reach and a 200% increase in engagement in comparison to the previous reporting period. The engagement includes 700 girls and boys who participated in the photography campaign during the global mask week.
- In addition, UNICEF engaged 700 girls and boys in the global mask week through social media.

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

- In collaboration with Prisons Organization, training packages for provision of PSS to juveniles in Juvenile correction and rehabilitation centers (JCRCs) and incarcerated mothers in women's prisons were developed, and 62 social workers/counsellors from 31 provinces were trained on provision of PSS to the above-mentioned groups.
- Furthermore, the remote training on Remote Steps Psychological Care and Support (ResPCT) for 16 counselors from Adolescent Wellbeing Clubs affiliated to MOHME was initiated.
- Through a nation-wide competition 6,000 children 50% girls, shared their voices on impact of COVID-19 and how it has affected their lives.

### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF has worked closely with Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) staff in maternal, child and HIV unit and prepared an internal report on the drop-in service uptake. The report includes impact assessment of the outbreak on vaccination, maternal and neonatal health services, as well as HIV testing of pregnant women in the framework of the Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. The report also lists the steps taken by MOHME to counteract the negative impact of the outbreak.

### Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, and UNHCR have submitted a proposal to a 2<sup>nd</sup> call of the MPTF through the RC to mobilize funds for the CARE Project i.e. catalyze and build: empowering women and vulnerable populations in Iran to build forward in times of the COVID-19.

## Iraq

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- To date, 37,683 young people (1,672 offline and 36,011 online) have led peer-to-peer activities through ADAP-supported civil society organizations and Directorates of Youth in north, center, and south. This also includes young people who engaged digitally through the U-Report COVID-19 chatbot WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Voices of Youth.
- UNICEF implemented a U-Report survey of 464 youth (91% response) on face masks; results show good knowledge but insufficient practice.

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

- UNICEF supported Iraq's first online learning platform "Newton" as well as the work of the Education TV. As of 23rd August 2020, Newton's latest access and usage rates are as follows:
  - Number of Schools: 25,931 (registered in the platform with uploaded data)
  - Number of Teachers: 112,775 (interacting through the platform including technical trained individuals to navigate the platform)
  - Number of Students: 568,099 (interacting and registering in the platform, viewing the online livestream of the Education TV through Newton)
- Children Released from detention: 53 children released from detention centers in Erbil, Sulaiy, Muthana and Dhok, as part of advocacy to decrease the number of children in the detention centers and risk of infection with COVID-19 in overcrowded prisons. Ongoing Psychosocial Support (PSS), case management, and Counselling services were also provided to 100 children in both Governorates and 20 family visits by the social workers as part of social reintegration programme to follow up on recently released children.



- Access to Child Protection services: total 909 children (466 girls) were reached with remote and in-person case management services. In addition, 4,911 children (2,430 girls) and 2,193 adults (1,263 women) were reached with PSS services with face-to-face respecting social distancing.
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) Services: 160 (105 women, 27 girls, 5 boys and 23 men) were reached with GBV case management services through GBV sub-cluster approved remote and in person services like home visits. Furthermore 954 (639 women, 301 girl, 5 boys and 9 men) received individual or group psychosocial services and 1,049 persons (672 women, 261 girls, 39 boys and 77 men) were reached with awareness-raising sessions on GBV prevention. A total of 50 (23 women) trained on GBV Risk Mitigation and GBV Mainstreaming.

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

- 256 health care workers from 8 departments of health are being trained to deliver subsequent face-to-face training for health care providers at primary health care centers.
- PPE distributed to hospitals and other facilities included 59,000 disposable aprons, 6,258 surgical gowns, 3,160 disposable gloves, 34,600 N95 masks, and 21,700 surgical masks, valued to US\$68,000.
- 20,000 locally produced hand sanitizers and disinfectants were provided to 22 quarantine centers, including three main quarantine centers in Basra, Thi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiya and Missan, benefitting 11,000 health workers and 8,000 patients. Also, 13 automatic hand and phone disinfection sanitizers cabinets were installed in 9 hospitals in Baghdad and 4 in Basra to serve 9,000 health workers and 6500 patients promote hand hygiene at facilities. – the device includes a digital screen displaying key messages.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to produce a training video on IPC for immunization services, to be sent to Health Care Providers' (HCPs) mobile phones; this is the first of many such mobile IPC videos for frontline staff
- 30 Health Care Providers from Primary Health Care centres in the retaken areas of Mosul were trained on counselling & communication skills to revitalize essential health services in the city. The training included IPC measures from the national IPC curriculum developed with UNICEF support.
- During the reporting period support was given to the following health and nutrition services:
  - 2,856 children 6-59 months screened for malnutrition for growth in the Internal Displaced Persons IDPs/Refugees' camps.
  - 24 Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases identified in the IDPs/Refugees' camps and referred for management to the NRCs.
  - 135 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases identified in the IDPs/Refugees' camps and received proper management.
  - 1,425 pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling in the IDPs/Refugees' camps.
  - 121,421 infants (aged <12m) vaccinated against measles in 10 UNICEF-focus governorates.
  - 5,593 women received/benefited from ANC/PNC visits in the 10 UNICEF-focus governorates.

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- Due to the lack of funding and delays in transferring funds to the mobile companies delivering the payments no disbursements were made.

## Jordan

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The national COVID-19 campaign<sup>6</sup> with UNICEF support reached more than 1.5 million people through social media platforms, including 800,000 people via online portals, 140,000 engaged through social media influencers, and 400,000 people reached via the social media platforms of various ministerial offices. The outdoor media campaign continued, with key messaging displayed on billboards and digital screens, at gas stations, ministries, and private sector locations in East and West Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba and other governorates.
- The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, with UNICEF technical support, reached an estimated 200,000 people through the online parental programme <sup>7</sup> to raise awareness about key COVID-19 prevention measures families can take, creating more conscious and committed communities.
- UNICEF developed and distributed through various media outlets, schools, and nurseries, an e-package of five stories for children under ten years of age, conveying age-appropriate messages about COVID-19, reaching 253,900 people.

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

<sup>6</sup> The national COVID-19 campaign is headed by the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce, whose members include the World Health Organization, MOH, UNICEF, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the Royal Health Awareness Society. The maximum number of people reached through the national COVID-19 campaign is estimated to be 7 million since March 2020.

<sup>7</sup> The parental awareness programme reached 200,000 people through 35 sermons and 20 success stories, which were disseminated through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' audio and video channels.

- UNICEF directly supported distance learning for an additional 7,808 children (60%female), bringing the total to 59,884 children (53%female) through certified non-formal education Drop-Out and Catch-Up programmes (4,018 children), the distribution of printed learning materials in refugee camps and ITSs (19,313 children), Makani centers in host communities (31,692 children), learning support for children with disabilities (1,497 children), remote learning for Kinder Garden 2 children in host communities (704 children), and through social media education channels (2,660 children).
- UNICEF trained 117 Syrian Assistant Teachers (SATs – 54% female) in refugee camps on children's health and safety when returning to school and the engagement of parents, who began outreach visits in August to support children's registration in formal and non-formal education. UNICEF also trained 36 Syrian incentive-based volunteers (97% female) in Za'atari, Azraq, and Emirati Jordanian camps on the delivery of a remote school readiness programme for children entering Grade 1, targeting 950 parents and caregivers (70% female) of nearly 1,300 children.
- A new cycle of social innovation training began in July, benefiting 116 youth (52% female) in Azraq camp and 79 youth (35% female) in Za'atari camp. A total of 310 young people are benefitting from accredited online training courses.
- In host communities, UNICEF provided 872 vulnerable youth (60% female) with Internet bundles, and 371 vulnerable youth (60% female) with laptops and tablets to facilitate their continued online technical and vocational education and training.
- Cumulatively, a total of 71,928 children (54% girls) and 22,293 adults (82%female)<sup>8</sup> received community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Makani centers, specialized case management services, and helpline support, implemented in partnership with the Jordan River Foundation.

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

- In Azraq camp, UNICEF and partners distributed cleaning<sup>9</sup> and hygiene kits<sup>10</sup> to 36,055 refugees (50%female). In King Abdullah Park (KAP) camp, UNICEF distributed soap bars and hand sanitizers to 600 refugees (50%female). UNICEF Jordan provided critical WASH supplies and services to 308,246 people (cumulative - 49%female, 53%children).
- UNICEF continued providing an increased water supply, 5.7 million to 6.5 million liters daily to Azraq, Za'atari, and KAP refugee camps to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 and due to rising temperatures. Similarly, in the Rukban settlement, UNICEF increased the supply of water from approximately 46 to 60 liters of water per person per day to more than 8,000 children and their families.
- UNICEF established ten gender-separated and disability-accessible WASH blocks in both the transit and reception areas in Za'atari camp, which serve up to 120 individuals. Additionally, in line with governmental IPC protocols, UNICEF has disinfected over 9,920 vehicles entering Azraq, KAP, and Za'atari refugee camps.
- In cooperation with partners, UNICEF disseminated COVID-19 risk mitigation and hygiene information through 227 WhatsApp messaging groups, reaching 5,525 individuals (40% female) in refugee camps and host communities.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF in collaboration with IOM and the Ministry of Health, supported the provision of mobile immunization for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian children and women in informal tented settlements. Through a country-wide remote immunization campaign, 1,917 children under five (49% female) and 182 women of reproductive age were vaccinated.
- During the first two weeks of August 2020, UNICEF provided essential health and nutrition services in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, including essential newborn care, immunization, and treatment of childhood illnesses, to 1,409 children (48% girls), and identified and treated one girl with severe acute malnutrition

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- A total of 388,370 households (25% female-headed households) received emergency cash assistance through the National Aid Fund, with UNICEF's technical assistance. This represents an increase of 11,370 households, corresponding to affected daily wages workers who applied via grievances channels. The extraction and processing of the grievance cases were completed through the management Information System (MIS) and 2 ways SMS platform, both provided and supported by UNICEF.
- UNICEF-supported humanitarian cash transfers (Hajati) were successfully delivered to an additional 410 families, bringing the total to 9,567 (24% female-headed households).

## Lebanon

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- With multiple clusters of cases being observed across the country, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with municipalities to develop and implement RCCE action plans, focusing on messages on the severity of the

<sup>8</sup> Instances of double-reported beneficiaries who benefitted from more than one UNICEF-supported protection service may occur.

<sup>9</sup> One cleaning kit contains one soap bar, one bottle of bleach and one pack of detergent.

<sup>10</sup> One hygiene kit contains five soap bars, one bottle of hand sanitizer and two packs of detergent.

pandemic and protective behavior and measures. UNICEF in partnership with Community-based Organizations (CBO) conducted door-to-door visits reaching 592 households in Baalbak, engaged with 113 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) around back-to-business strategies and conducted trainings on home isolation and quarantine to people who are self-isolating, and mobilized national platforms and 24 key influencers to promote good behavior and sensitization message among citizens. In collaboration with Qaa Municipality, UNICEF conducted trainings on preventative measures for COVID-19, quarantine guidelines.

- In light of low compliance with preventive measures during the immediate aftermath of the Beirut explosion and generally decreasing risk perception, UNICEF adapted and contextualized COVID-19 messages in close collaboration with partners including Government, UN agencies and others. Social mobilization and community engagement interventions were mapped, harmonized, and coordinated in the affected areas, and UNICEF with partners reinforced mainstreaming the adapted COVID-19 awareness and safety messages across all its activities. In addition, UNICEF closely worked with the Lebanese University (LU) task force, to provide technical support and guidance to 800 volunteers on key essential healthy and protective behaviors related to COVID-19 as part of their outreach activities.

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

- July marked the end of the phase 1 of engagement in learning for children enrolled in non-formal education (NFE) programmes. UNICEF supported 8,000 children with distance learning, educational supplies and psychosocial support/wellbeing activities, and reached 36,000 children and caregivers with risk communication messaging. This brings the total reach in this phase 1 to around 19,000 children, including 869 children with disabilities, and 50,000 children and caregivers respectively.
- UNICEF trained 923 instructors on Covid-19 awareness and preventive measures. Preparations for the phase 2, planned for August, are ongoing whereas the start was postponed to early September due to the Beirut explosion.
- UNICEF and partners have piloted face-to-face psychosocial support activities in designated areas to ensure that medium-to-high risk children continue to receive the best support possible despite COVID-19. All activities are taking into consideration all health precautions including using hand washing and adequate social distancing to minimize risks.
- UNICEF conducted a 3-day training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) minimum standards in the context of COVID-19 for 30 staff of 15 local partner organizations. In addition to face-to-face and remote trainings including response and reporting mechanism, and investigation capacities, partners are currently developing a PSEA action plan in order to enhance the minimum standards within their organizations.

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

- UNICEF provided IPC/PPE supplies and fuel for five isolation centers across Lebanon, these centers serve 80 patients
- UNICEF provided 55 IPC kits to families for home isolation and 93 household disinfection kits to families sharing facilities with affected families, along with guidance on home isolation and proper disinfection as well as COVID-19 awareness information provided through local volunteers trained by UNICEF.
- UNICEF completed the WASH interventions in Qana isolation Center (53 beds capacity) by installing six water tanks (2,000 liters each) for water supply, one 1,000 liters tank with highly chlorinated water for disinfection through a separate network, in addition to handwashing and disinfection points.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In light of the COVID-19 response and economic crisis, with technical guidance from UNICEF and in coordination with the ministry of public health and the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee, the action plan on IYCF is finalized.
- Following the loosening of lockdown measures, the number of children vaccinated has increased from 40,000 (Lipopolysaccharide Biding Protein (LBP) in May to 60,000LBP in June. Intensive community mobilization was conducted to attend to vaccination services at Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) through community engagement and outreach and social media initiatives whereby parents were reassured on safety and availability of immunization services and personal protective equipment.
- UNICEF reached 1,562 people with maternal newborn child health messages and referred them to PHCCs where relevant. Another 1,753 people received health integrated messages on COVID-19 and in addition to 348 caregivers who were advised on infant and young child feeding and breastfeeding counseling during COVID-19. At the land border crossing points, 6,488 individuals including 451 children were screened for COVID-19 and provided with guidance on prevention and home isolation. The children vaccination status was also checked, and 340 children were provided with the missing Measles and Polio containing vaccines.
- 180 disposable face shield, 900 surgical face masks, 540 disposable medical gowns, 30 boxes of gloves, 8 bottles of 4 L hand sanitizers, 300 boot covers, 360 headcovers, 20 Tyvek overalls and 20 N95 masks were provided to the medical staff in Domit Isolation center in Chouf and Ghobeiry Isolation center in Mount Lebanon.

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- Delivery of humanitarian social assistance through the Integrated Child Wellbeing Programme has continued throughout COVID-19 to almost 6,000 children extremely poor children. Approval by the Ministry of Social Affairs of the planned inclusion of approximately 1,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children with disabilities was delayed due to Blast. UNICEF worked in coordination with WFP and UNHCR partners to manage crowds and queuing at Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to ensure COVID-19 prevention measures are undertaken. In addition, PPE kits were provided to partners staff working in the field, and hand sanitizers to beneficiaries approaching ATMs.
- While dialogue with the IMF has been suspended, the UNCT has proposed to submit a joint position paper on the UN's common 'red lines' to inform the IMF about key reforms, essential policy programmes and recommendations, as well as the potential implications of reforms and measures in the Government Financial Recovery Plan. UNICEF, along with International Labor Organizations (ILO), contributed to the draft section on social protection. Separately, UNICEF has drafted an outline of a more detailed note – being consulted with ILO – highlighting key issues on social protection should discussions recommence.

## Libya

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF released a preliminary report on the 40-days RCCE campaign in the South Libya highlighting key activities and results of the pillar and UNICEF.
- Due to the increasing number of cases in Misrata, UNICEF in coordination with the NCDC launched a National Awareness Campaign on the 22 August, that includes a wide range of awareness and community engagement activities.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the High Scientific Committee, formed under the Presidential Council to combat COVID-19, and the NCDC broadcasted four videos with dignitaries and media activists in the South.
- Under the slogan 'Lets Protect Our South', UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the NCDC Municipal Councils, Corona Crisis Committees and Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) completed the distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials reaching over 150,000 individuals in 14 municipalities in the South region.
- UNICEF joined the regional #MaskUp social media campaign and focused on the importance of wearing masks and how to dispose of them safely. UNICEF produced original digital content as well as cross-sharing awareness messages, encouraging the general public, including children to wear masks.
- UNICEF's partnership with Tripoli Optics a private sector partner was extended to mobilize Libyan public figures and activists to promote COVID-19 prevention and encourage families to stay home and adhere to the NCDC precautionary measures.

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

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools remain closed, leaving some 1.3 million children out of school. UNICEF continued to work with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in recording online sessions of the Libyan national curriculum which are currently broadcasted on a dedicated national TV channel and are also available on YouTube Channel "Let's Learn". In July, with UNICEF's support, MoE recorded 600 sessions, bringing the total online sessions to 1,400.
- In addition, UNICEF reached out to 1,120 of the most vulnerable children (609 males and 511 females) with limited and or poor access to technology, with distribution of curriculum work sheets and CDs.
- UNICEF, in coordination with the MoE, organized an online training "Safely Back to School" targeting social welfare and health department staff from 15 municipalities. The training was focused on opening of schools in COVID-19 context and was attended by a total of 54 participants including 30 women.
- UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial support to 148 children and caregivers (141 women and 7 girls) in Tripoli, Tarhuna, Misrata and Zuwara through online activities. A total of 837 children (442 girls/women, 395 boys/men) received specialized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha. Moreover, UNICEF and its partners received 1,114 calls through helpline numbers and provided information and guidance on child protection services in Tripoli, Tarhuna, Benghazi and Sabha.
- One Baity center<sup>11</sup> in Tripoli (out of six) was partially reopened for online classes. The Baity center was also used as a library, providing reading resources to 24 children.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partners identified nine new cases through case management process. A total of 116 women and young girls were assisted with specialized GBV services and provided with referral pathways in Tripoli, Benghazi and Misrata, through online modality.
- 1,048 individuals (910 female, 138 male) benefited with key CP and GBV messages in Misrata, Tripoli, and Sebha. Child protection COVID-19 radio and Facebook campaign was re-launched in Benghazi.
- A total of 28 social workers, teachers and child protection actors (27 female, 1 male) were trained by UNICEF on CP and GBV prevention and response methods in Misrata.
- 116 individuals received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) across Tripoli, including 15 employees from other humanitarian actors (80 men, 34 women, 10 boys). UNICEF and its partners distributed 540 joint

<sup>11</sup> Baity, meaning "home" in Arabic, is a multi-sectoral community-based programme that contributes to the development and well-being of vulnerable children and youth, by providing integrated interventions including learning support services, early childhood development, community-based child protection, life skills and health and nutrition services.



COVID-19 and EORE awareness materials including leaflets and posters in Khalat Forjan area of Tripoli as well as Gunfuda area in Benghazi. Due to COVID-19, EORE continued to be broadcasted on three radio stations in Tripoli.

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

- To support school reopening, UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) (East) and the NCDC, provided 20,000 soap bars to schools located in eastern Libya. These soaps will be distributed in at least 100 school and will enable at least 10,000 students to practice handwashing and promote hygiene practices in schools.
- UNICEF is also supporting the MoE in disinfection of schools and public facilities. This disinfection exercise will benefit 23,000 children and staff in 46 schools and internally displaced people (IDP) camps as they will be provided with cleaning and disinfection services.
- UNICEF and its partners, in collaboration with the NCDC, carried out a two days' online workshop on 27-28 July on re-opening of Baiyy centers. During the workshop, UNICEF and partners discussed the phased re-opening of Baiyy centers, role and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the process, in addition to one half day fully dedicated to IPC training. Furthermore, prior to the workshop UNICEF carried out a WASH assessment of each of the Baiyy center and shared their recommendations on implementation of the required measures.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- During the reporting period, thirteen municipalities (Subrata, Alkhums, Garabuli, Alshwerif, Misrata, Bani Waleed, Zintan, Tawergha, Janzour, Zuwara, Sorman, Tripoli, and Azzawya) were provided with Sixteen inter-agency emergency health kits (IEHK) 2017 medicines as part of the integrated maternal, newborn, and childcare (MNCH) and nutrition package that has already been dispatched to these municipalities. These supplies will benefit an estimated 160,000 persons, including 110,784 women and children for a period of three months. In addition, UNICEF also distributed eight obstetric and surgical kits which will be sufficient to handle an average of 800 deliveries.
- Libya is currently going through severe power outages, which is disrupting many services including health services and cold chains. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided eleven generators to eleven health facilities which will help continuity of electricity in order to help in maintaining a proper cold chain for vaccines and benefit an estimated 8,250 children under the age of five-years.

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- A pilot project, funded by OFDA, will test a cash+ approach, with a multi-purpose cash transfer programme for 200 vulnerable children and their families in the Baiyy Centers plus case management and referral by social workers to the national Social Solidarity Fund.

## Morocco

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In collaboration with government and civil society partners and key national influencers, UNICEF has to date reached a total of 23,510,000 people with 1,670,094 engagements registered through office led and supported social media campaigns. During the reporting period, RCCE campaigns reached a total of 9,597,700 persons on social media platforms.
- This was achieved through: 1) communication campaign launched on June 11 to reinforce preventive measures which reached 3,671,164 people through UNICEF social media platforms, 2) The successful collaboration with Ministries of Health and Education marked by the broadcasting of the series of cartoons "Les Aventures de Sarah et Mehdi" on Ministry of Health and UNICEF social media platforms. The total reach to date on social media is 256,240 with 4,309 engagements.
- UNICEF and UNFPA supported the Ministry of Youth to launch a youth-week engagement campaign around the celebration of the International Youth Day that included actions to cope with COVID-19.
- UNICEF supported community-based projects that reached a total of 7,540 people with COVID-19 and secondary impacts prevention messages. Approximately, 123 people have been engaged through community mobilization and engagement efforts. A total of 235 records of feedback have been addressed during the reporting period
- UNICEF has launched a new social media campaign "Vivre avec la COVID-19". The campaign will build on previous initiatives in COVID-19 prevention among youth influencers and organizations.

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

- During the reporting period, UNICEF continued supporting families and children through its civil society partners to access distance learning platforms and tools.
- The rehabilitation of sanitation facilities and the implementation of IPC plan in more than 60 schools in 4 regions are underway with the support of UNICEF.
- UNICEF reinforced its partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to provide children living in the 15 child protection centers across the country with psychological support, recreational activities, critical hygiene

kits and IPC trainings for staff and children. The collaboration aims at supporting more than 500 children in contact with the law.

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

- During the reporting period a total of 670 migrants have been provided with hygiene and food kits through UNICEF's support to a civil society organization.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF is supporting the MoH to prepare the upcoming series of remote trainings for health professionals to be deployed through digital solutions in collaboration with VIAMO. The MoH is currently working with UNICEF technical support to develop training materials related to the sessions expected to be launched in September.
- A total of 1,461 migrants were reached with COVID-19 prevention and continuity of health services promotion messages

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- On July 29, further to the COVID-19 response, the King of Morocco pledged as national priority major reforms for the rapid implementation of the "Integrated Public Policy on Social Protection" (2020-2030). The major goal of the next five years is to provide all Moroccans with social security. Strategies will include expansion of the medical insurance scheme and scaling up of family allowances to include the informal sector. Reforms for universal coverage of social protection will focus on strengthening and harmonizing the existing social protection systems, through the operationalization of the Unified Social Register, and the creation of a national social protection agency as advocated for by UNICEF.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a humanitarian cash transfer was allocated to support 200 families in charge of children with disabilities in Oujda, to address their immediate financial need and food insecurity.

### Oman

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF supported the inter-ministerial RCCE Committee with the implementation of the parenting communication strategy and plan. The strategy seeks to address the secondary impacts of COVID-19 by providing parents with access to credible and vital information. It reinforces and complements government messaging on COVID-19 prevention and containment measures, as well as messaging on overall health, including mental health and nutrition (including breastfeeding). UNICEF's messages were amplified via government and private sector channels, including radio and Television, and social media, potentially reaching 166,000 through UNICEF Oman's social media accounts.

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

- UNICEF is working with the Government to draw up guidelines for the return to Early Child Development (ECD) centers, including nurseries. The work is guided by a careful risk-based approach to maximize the educational, developmental and health benefits for children, teachers, staff, and the wider community, and help prevent a new outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. It will also consider the multi-faceted impacts on young children, especially the most vulnerable, and support that may be required in relation to protection, psycho-social support, health, nutrition, and other issues that emerge and that may need to be addressed due to COVID-19 confinement measures.
- The guideline's Phase 1 with an assessment of the risks associated with COVID-19 arising from opening ECD centers has been completed. It covers: 1) internal transmission risks arising from the ECD centers' work and learning environment; 2) external risks emanating from wider interaction with the rest of the economy; and 3) management and planning risks related to effective monitoring, screening and incident management procedures. The work will be closely aligned with school re-opening guidelines.
- UNICEF continued to work with the Ministry of Social Development and other partners to ensure the proper functioning of the children's hotline and the case management system (CMS) within the current COVID-19 context. UNICEF has also established and is operating a communications mechanism to provide credible and up-to-date information to social workers during the outbreak.
- The Ministry of Education, with UNICEF support and drawing on UNICEF materials, developed guidelines on providing psycho-social counselling in schools during COVID-19. The guidelines target workers involved in student care (social workers/counselors) and have the following objectives:
  - Provision of MHPSS services through online services (e.g. WhatsApp/ hotline)
  - Reducing stigma
  - Reduction of stress on caregivers/ service providers in schools
  - Provision of caregiver with useful tools to support students
  - Identification and referral of cases that require MHPSS specialized services
  - Promote positive experiences of students onlinee.

### The State of Palestine

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In the last month, six new radio spots were broadcast in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The topics covered living in an infected area during the pandemic, preventive measures for suspected infections, and mental health.
- A social and mass media campaign was launched to promote “Back to School in Gaza” to raise students’ awareness on physical distancing and hand washing.
- Through UNICEF supported initiatives, the RCCE interventions enabled over 3.7 million engagements over social media since the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- UNICEF supported training for ten community-based organizations and 530 youth on COVID-19 preventive measures, tracking and reporting rumors, and advocacy. Furthermore, eight community committees in eight governorates were formed and trained to report on and fight stigma.

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

- UNICEF’s direct support has enabled 12,616 adolescents to access life skills education through an online platform. No new additional students were supported during this reporting period as schools were on summer break.
- As part of the school re-opening preparations, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop safe school operation protocols and a capacity building plan for relevant MoE staff to operationalize the guidelines on safe school operations. The targeted staff are school health teams, supervisors, counsellors, school canteen staff, school principals and teachers. As of 21 August 2020, 14,300 staff (56% females have been trained on the safe school operations guidelines).
- Procurement and delivery of school hygiene kits is underway for 1,670 schools for an estimate reach to 624,580 students (50% girls). As of 21 August 2020, 414 hygiene kits have been delivered to schools in Gaza with the remaining kits planned for delivery before schools re-open in the West Bank in September. The kits contain digital thermometers as well as essential hygiene and cleaning materials to clean and disinfect school premises.
- In Gaza, through 2 partners, UNICEF reached 2,345 people (1,275 children) through psychosocial and protection services, including case management, group and individual counseling, life skills education, child parent interaction and expressive arts.
- through UNICEF support, 653 people (179 girls and 66 boys) have utilized safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse<sup>12</sup>.

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

- UNICEF delivered 4 packages of supplies for Intensive Care Units (ICUs) (2 West Bank and 2 Gaza). These included nasal oxygen prongs (3,960 for adults and 1,140 for children), 30 flow splitters for oxygen concentrators, and 420 oxygen tubes. These supplies are expected to benefit at least 40 patients monthly.
- UNICEF delivered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Ministry of Health (MoH) including 50,000 N95 masks for one month, 50,000 coveralls for 10 months, and 50,000 face shields for 5 months. These PPEs will serve health professionals in 20 quarantine and 15 treatment centers in the West Bank.
- UNICEF delivered 517 COVID-19 test kits that will serve for 5,170 tests in the West Bank.
- UNICEF delivered 6 patient monitors and 6 syringe pumps to benefit ICU patients in COVID-19 treatment facilities. These are expected to benefit 12 patients monthly.
- UNICEF distributed both medical and waste supplies to support the MoH and 50 quarantine centers in the West Bank to ensure safe and proper waste management during the COVID-19 emergency response. The items included sodium hypochlorite, hand sanitizer, safety boxes, plastic bags and thermometers. The number of beneficiaries will be assessed once the supplies are utilized.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- the reporting period, 23 children (13 boys and 10 girls) with severe acute malnutrition benefited from treatment provided by a local NGO in Gaza.
- In Gaza, UNICEF supported local NGOs to maintain the provision of essential maternal, neonatal and child health services for high-risk women and young children through alternate modalities such as telephone counselling. An additional 1,305 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and 630 children accessed continued essential health and nutrition care services, including 315 caregivers who received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- Through UNICEF and WHO joint advocacy, out of US\$ 6.5 million required for the annual procurement of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) vaccines, the MoH has allocated US\$ 2.5 million to ensure the provision of urgently needed vaccines and sustaining uninterrupted immunization of young children. This allocation has been made despite the ongoing financial crisis faced by the State of Palestine.

## Sudan

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

<sup>12</sup> Whilst the result is reported against the PSEA indicator, the reported calls were about physical or sexual violence that children experienced. Callers also reported other child protection and gender-based violence concerns, as well as anxiety and psychological stress linked to COVID-19 pressures.

- In preparation for the Yellow Fever vaccination campaign, 763 health promoters were trained in IPC and COVID-19 operation guidelines.
- Mask production activities (26,524 masks produced benefiting community groups at localities) continue to engage and empower the community to lead change and promote COVID-19 prevention practices.
- UNICEF trained 217 community figures (i.e., religious leaders, youths' groups, and community leaders). 72,474 individuals were engaged in discussions about COVID-19 and community practices.
- The national COVID-19 awareness campaign continues to engage artists to change the public image of the city by painting walls with messages on healthy living.

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

- UNICEF supported 13,000 Grade 8 students to sit for their exams in safe environments by implementing health and hygiene measures such as distribution of masks, applying physical distancing measures and supporting development of, risk communication messages and posters.
- UNICEF contributed to the continued learning of 33,333 secondary school students by preparing review lessons in video, audio and paper-based formats.
- UNICEF provided technical support to the Federal Ministry of Education to establish school re-opening protocols including risk communication, measures for those showing symptoms, checks at school entries, physical distancing in classrooms and playgrounds, WASH facilities, as well as sanitizing surfaces and rooms.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with Civil Society organization (CSO) partners and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) and the State Council of Child Welfare (SCCW) reunified 11,290 separated and unaccompanied children (10,709 boys, 581 girls) with their families in the Darfur, the Kordofan states, Blue Nile, White Nile and the Eastern States.
- Around 43,821 children and parents (18,936 boys, 18,522 girls, 3,020 men, 3,343 women) received family and individual based PSS services through mobile teams and remote PSS.
- In collaboration with the Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) Administration and law enforcement authorities, UNICEF was able to release 1,011 children who had come into contact with the law (974 boys, 37 girls) from FCPUs in all the States in Sudan.
- Around 6,247 children (5,702 boys, 545 girls) living and working on and off the streets mainly in Khartoum state received food and other basic services in collaboration with the MOSW, the SCCW and CSOs which provide the majority of such services.
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services were provided to 504 GBV victims (84 boys, 150 girls, 86 men, 184 women) in collaboration with the MOSW, MOH and FCPUs.

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

- A total of 155,712 population in COVID-19 high risk sites were reached with WASH IPC supplies that combined with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion and water supply interventions. The supported population were the visitors and staff of isolation/health centers, IDPs, refugees, rural/urban population, school children, and prisoners. The below summary highlighting the support provided:
  - Around 5,250 patients and medical staff (2,656 males, 2,594 females) in 6 isolation/health centers in Kassala, West Kordofan and West Darfur states were supported with water connections and handwashing stations.
  - Around 56,970 IDPs, refugees, rural/urban population and prisoners (26,520 males, 30,450 females) in East, West, Central and North Darfur were supported with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion combined with the installation of 22 handwashing facilities and distribution of WASH COVID-19 IPC supplies including, handwashing soaps, hand sanitizers, chlorine supplies and IEC materials.
  - WASH supported students and staff during grade eight exam with WASH COVID-19 IPC interventions in Kassala, Gedarif, Blue Nile, White Nile and West Darfur States. Around 93,377 school children and staff (45,791.00 males, 47,586 females) were supported with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion that combined with the installation of handwashing stations, disinfection of the exam classrooms, distribution of handwashing soap and hand sanitizers as required.
  - 115 (48 males, 67 females) Environmental health workers in East and West Darfur States were trained on WASH IPC related COVID-19 prevention/response interventions.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- PPE supplies were provided to 1,491 healthcare facility staff and community health workers, including COVID-19 frontline health-care workers.
- UNICEF supported training activities for 1,474 facility and community health workers on COVID-19 IPC and continuity of essential Health & Nutrition services.
- 298 health care providers were trained on detection, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Alongside partners, UNICEF ensured the continuity of essential healthcare services, benefiting 181,145 children and women, including ANC/PNC services (21,460), essential newborn care (14,789), treatment of childhood illnesses (41,594) and immunization services (103,302).



- 10,971 mothers and primary caregivers received counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) through social media, facility and community platforms, while 13,238 children aged 6-59 months suffering Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment in UNICEF supported facilities.

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- With support from UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD) and partners continued to implement its Informal Sector Response Plan to better support families and children affected by COVID-19 related containment measures. By mid-August, MoLSD finalized its food and hygiene distributions in peri-urban areas of Khartoum State with a cumulative total of 505,000 families (about 3 million individuals) and made progress on cash card distributions reaching an additional 40,000 families with a cumulative total of 138,210 families (about 830,000 individuals of which an estimated 49% is children) across Sudan.
- UNICEF facilitated UNHCR's contribution to the MoLSD response plan through an inter-agency agreement to promote UN coherence and cooperation. UNICEF conducted observation visits to assembly and distribution sites to monitor the process of food and hygiene distribution to vulnerable communities in Khartoum State. UNICEF is also currently in discussions with the WFP and UNCHR to coordinate a post distribution monitoring with a view to facilitating lessons learning and information sharing of this response.

## Syria

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF in collaboration with WHO supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Information (MOI) to relaunch a COVID-19 related public awareness campaign on 29 July to promote specific behaviors and practices considering the lifting of restrictions.
- UNICEF supported MOH in delivering two COVID-19 related RCCE master training of trainer workshops for a total of 46 health workers from all governorates who will further cascade the training to 1,500 health workers at the district level by the end of 2020.
- In the Al-Hol camp in Hassakeh Governorate, through UNICEF support, 30 volunteers were trained on RCCE, and 200 community leaders attended awareness sessions on COVID-19 and related hygiene promotion. Also, 15 focus group discussions were conducted to better understand community practices to inform future RCCE interventions in the Al-Hol camp.
- UNICEF provided support to the Homs Department of Health for a five-day training of 74 health workers on COVID-19-related risk communication. Following the training, the trained health workers undertook small-group sessions at health centers and schools (where catch-up courses for baccalaureate students are ongoing), home visits in hard-to-reach areas, as well as awareness-raising activities in markets and other crowded places.
- In North-West Syria, UNICEF implemented social media initiatives, including 4,520 social media posts, which reached 218,192 people/caregivers and engaged 8,813 people in COVID-19 related discussions and queries.
- UNICEF reached 91,359 IDPs in Idlib and Aleppo in North-West Syria through 10,475 COVID-19 messaging and best hygiene practices awareness sessions in 114 camps and informal settlements.

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

- UNICEF carried out a training for school personnel responsible for school health. This benefited about 4,000 teachers and education personnel.
- UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Education to prepare for the re-opening of 1,300 schools for Curriculum B students, this included providing cleaning products (WASH/hygiene cleaning kits, PPE, and backpack sprayers with chlorine).
- UNICEF supported national exams, including the Grade 12 exams of about 12,000 children, that took place during the reporting period. In addition, UNICEF provided accommodation centers for Grade 9 students with first aid kits, masks and hand sanitizers.
- Child Protection provided online training on programme facilitation to staff attached to UNICEF projects in Aleppo as part of continuous efforts to enhance the quality of remote programming implemented by UNICEF partners.

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

- UNICEF purchased IPC supplies to be distributed to health centres across the country. In addition, UNICEF purchased 700,000 bars of soap, which will serve 3.5 million people across the country as part of WFP's upcoming monthly food distributions.
- As part of UNICEF's COVID-19 response to the population in the Al-Hol camp, UNICEF provides daily disinfection of the Al-Hol field hospital, camp gate, communal-facilities, water taps, and garbage bins, benefiting approximately 65,000 people living in the camp. Moreover, UNICEF increased the emergency water trucking in the Al-Hol camp to 550 m<sup>3</sup> per day to facilitate handwashing and other COVID-19 prevention related hygiene activities.

- UNICEF increased water trucking to Hassakeh from 300m<sup>3</sup> to 1,000m<sup>3</sup> per day to address the water shortages. Thus, 77, 400 IDPs and host community members were provided with a daily water trucking in East Ghouta in Rural Damascus.
- As part of UNICEF's support to national exams, UNICEF distributed IPC supplies to 23 student accommodation centres in Aleppo and Rural Damascus.
- In Idleb and Aleppo in North-West Syria, through UNICEF supported water trucking, 375,667 IDPs received an average of 35 litres per day, per person in 446 camps and informal settlements and 13 healthcare facilities in Idleb and Aleppo through water trucking.
- As a result of UNICEF support in Idleb and Aleppo in North-West Syria, 60,667 IDPs have access to safe sanitation through the construction/rehabilitation of 153 latrines in 38 camps and informal settlements to ensure social distancing and avoid queuing.
- UNICEF also reached 120,334 IDPs with the distribution of 23,203 family hygiene kits in 135 camps and informal settlements in Idleb and Aleppo in North-west Syria. In addition, 52,942 IDPs received 3,040 WASH NFIs in 112 camps and informal settlements in the same area.
- During the reporting period, 49,341 IDPs and host population benefited from the UNICEF supported rehabilitation/expansion of WASH facilities in nine healthcare facilities in Idleb. Further, 120,025 IDPs reached through latrine cleaning of 870 blocks in 147 camps and informal settlement in North-West Syria.

#### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported two rounds of training on COVID-19 related IPC as well as the rational use of PPEs for 107 health workers in Damascus and Aleppo.
- UNICEF provided essential PPEs to six main public hospitals in Damascus and Rural Damascus as well as three Aleppo based health sector Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (benefiting 250 health workers).

#### Social protection and social sector financing

- UNICEF continues to deliver humanitarian cash transfers for basic need and reached around 60 households in poor urban areas in Rural Damascus with an emergency cash transfer for basic needs, bringing the total number since the beginning of this year to 21,356 households (51,471 children) who have been reached in the governorates of Aleppo, Latakia and Rural Damascus.
- Building on the joint impact assessment of the socio-economic effect of COVID-19 and the containment measures, UNICEF along with partners is involved in preparing an immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 for 12-18 months.

## Tunisia

#### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- To date, over 93 COVID-19 related communication materials have been produced and disseminated through various communication channels (TV, radio, digital and urban display), reaching over 6.8 million people.
- Further, UNICEF Tunisia social media platforms reached a total of 27.8 million impressions with the various COVID-19 communication material developed in-country (Facebook 22,708,151 impressions; Instagram 5,056,353; Twitter 36,305; LinkedIn 14,162; website 16,849 user sessions)
- In collaboration with the private sector and WHO and with the support of funding from USAID, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health to launch at the end of July 2020 a communication campaign to raise awareness on COVID-19 risks and the importance of practicing preventive measures. The campaign was activated on social media platforms on 24 July, has since reached more than 2 million post impressions, more than 685,000 video views, and nearly 100,000 post engagements.

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

- On 15 August 2020, UNICEF supported the organization of an event by Soft Skills Tunisian Association, a local partner CBO, to award a prize to the best three videos produced by youth and children on their experience during the COVID-19 lockdown. Those videos about life skills (empathy, resilience and critical thinking) will be broadcasted and utilized on social media and in education campaigns to raise awareness about life skills among adolescents and the general public.
- UNICEF is currently supporting the Ministry of Education in the planning for the reopening of schools, including health protocols, logistics and pedagogical arrangements.
- Up to 7 July 2020, the hotline set up by UNICEF with the Ministry of Women, Families, Children and Seniors received 16,387 calls, of which 1,079 cases related to children. The most common reason for the calls was anxiety and fear easily (22.4%). Out of the total, 57.2% of callers were mothers, 16.9% were fathers, 14.7% were children. The remaining 11% of callers includes siblings and neighbors.

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

- The Ministries of Health; Women, Families, Children and Seniors; Social Affairs and Justice are finalizing the distribution of WASH kits procured through the funds generously provided by USAID to approximately 3,000 beneficiaries including children, health workers and social workers.

### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- In coordination with WHO, UNICEF keeps providing support to the Ministry of Health to update its National Response Plan according to the epidemiological developments of the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia as well as providing advice on managing a potential second wave.
- The last cargo plane transporting the final quantity of 83 tons of Personal Protective Equipment procured by UNICEF with the funds generously provided by Japan and Sweden arrived on 3 August 2020. All equipment has been delivered to the Ministry of Health to support frontline healthcare workers in line with national response plan for COVID-19.
- Thanks to the funds provided by USAID, UNICEF is procuring 25,000 PCR test kits to support the Ministry of Health capacity to detect cases and thus limit the spread of the contagion.

### Social protection and social sector financing

- Jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs and KfW, UNICEF is about to finalize a EUR 12 million cash transfer programme targeting approximately 330,000 vulnerable children. The programme will act as a bridge for children until the new multi-partners budget support is launched in early 2021.

## Yemen

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Round 2 of COVID-19 Rapid Assessment was completed, 1,521 people from 22 governorates were interviewed for the assessment. The findings will inform and guide the COVID-19 RCCE response.
- Community Volunteers reached 722,464 people through 99,438 house-to-house visits to reinforce COVID-19 prevention measures. An additional 20,090 people were reached through megaphones in two-way communication.
- School Health Facilitators engaged with 38,169 people through 4,824 home visits and 8,851 awareness sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Imams and Morshydats continued engagement with people at gatherings and social events sensitizing them on COVID-19 prevention practices and physical distancing guidelines, 262,052 people were reached in 5,268 community gatherings and 5,294 women social events.
- An animation video and a song on key COVID-19 prevention practices were produced with Yemeni Musicians and Actors. The song was aired during Eid celebration on Radio and Social Media platforms. COVID-19 materials were developed for children and shared with partners for dissemination.

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

- School exams for over 480,000 9th and 12th graders kicked off on 15 August 2020 in 14 governorates. The exams are taking place in 4,287 exam centers by ensuring social distancing. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education (MoE) by providing personal protection equipment (4,200,000 masks, 63,305 liters of hand-sanitizers, 4,287 thermometers, 300,000 gloves), raising awareness on procedures of exams and physical distancing measures, and supporting 1,600 exam staff with incentives. These were made possible thanks to generous support by Education Cannot Wait, Slovenia, Canada, and Sweden.
- Opening of the 2020-2021 School Year: The MoE and education authorities across the country, in collaboration with partners, are working on the operationalization of the National COVID-19 Education Response plan with a focus on preparing schools for a possible reopening (safe school protocol) coupled with alternative learning modalities. UNICEF and WFP finalized a framework of a minimum joint intervention package, supporting the opening of the school year in Sept/Oct 2020 based on a scenario-based approach to enable continued learning in the COVID-19 situation.
- The Education Cluster has called on the Child Protection and WASH clusters in addition to the UNICEF C4D section to form a task force with key partners in support of the national exams and also to play a key role in safe school reopening.
- In addition to the 157 released reported earlier, 42 children have been released from detention and reintegrated with their families as of 18 Aug 2020 for a total of 199 children released since the beginning of the pandemic. In addition, 130 children had been released from the government orphanages
- CP team shifted to the remote MHPSS support to minimize the risks for children caregivers in contracting the virus. These include dissemination of inter-agency endorsed MHPSS messages through SNS, radio and TV programme; Provision of PSS counseling for children and families through hotlines; distribution of home-based PSS activities kits for the children.
- To date, 88 Yemen Country Office personnel and 60 partner personnel have completed the online training on GBV risk mitigation and referral for survivors.

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

- UNICEF continued with the provision WASH Service Delivery (Contributes to Pillar 6) by prioritizing IDP Sites, IDPs, Refugees, Returnees and High-Risk Population and supporting access to safe water in urban and rural areas through operations of WASH systems, rehabilitation of non-function water supply system in the rural areas and emergency water trucking, installation of water points, Water quality monitoring and Chlorination of water. The Chlorination and Water Quality Monitoring were conducted through the mainstreaming of COVID-19 precautionary actions. The beneficiaries were encouraged to wash their hands and clean surfaces with

chlorinated water. In addition to Water Quality Monitoring, the NRWA field teams ensure the disinfecting of surfaces and flats at drinking water distribution points.

- UNICEF supported 32,751 people in Monabbih in Sa'ada Governate and in Marib city, Harib Qaramish, and Sirwah districts in Marib governorates with improved water sources through the construction new water supply system with distribution and installation of pumping system. 152,677 individuals from IDPs and High-Risk population in Hajjah and Hodiedah with improved water source through water trucking and sustained improved water supply to 1,125,657 people in Sana city through electricity support and 820,000 people in Hodiedah city, Hajjah city, Mahweet city, Al-Jabeen city, Bait Al-Faqih, Bajel, Al-Marawi'ah, Zabeed, Abs, Al-Shahel and Mabyan districts in Hajjah, Hodiedah, Mahweet and Raymah governorates through fuel support for the operation of the existing water supply system to ensure the availability of water supply for personal hygiene and domestic use. Around 3,816,376 people benefited from UNICEF supported water quality monitoring to reduce the vulnerability of the community to other water-related outbreaks in Amant Asimah Dhamar, Amran and Sana'a governorates. In addition, 700,000 individuals in Sana'a benefited on a daily basis from UNICEF supported Water chlorination.
- UNICEF supported integrated response to the recent flood crisis with a package of life-saving and COVID-19 preventive (IPC) intervention, UNICEF supported the displaced families in Marib and governorates on its border who are hosted in 55 IDPs informal settlements in Marib governorates through its NNGO partner CSSW and supported the distribution of 3,208 BHKs, to newly-arrived displaced families, benefiting 22,456 people and 9,336 CHKs targeting 65,352 IDPs Hygiene promotion conducted to complement sanitation activities.

### Continuity of health care services for women and children

- UNICEF supported the sensitization of 1,525 CHWs on COVID-19 guidelines. Between March and June 2020, more than 1.2 million beneficiaries were reached by CHWs, of which 66% were females (823,180) in rural hard to reach areas.
- In Sanaa, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of triage in four hospitals, Maber Hospital in Dhamar governorate, Sabeen in al Amana, Kara hospital in Marib, Amran hospital on Amran and three are on the way in Sana'a governorates.
- Tents were provided in the South for 30 triage points along with an instructional video.
- A total of 93 oxygen concentrators were distributed, and procurement of another 300 is in process.
- We are supporting school end year exams for grade nine and twelve in the North with PPEs for students and teachers.
- PPEs were provided to 59 isolation units. One PPE shipment has arrived in Sana'a on 22 August and another will arrive in Aden on 25 August.
- For the continuity of routine immunization services, UNICEF delivered to MoPHP a total of 492,000 doses of Rotavirus vaccine and 974,775 doses of Penta as part of the stock for Q4 distribution in September for routine immunization services
- UNICEF supported the MoPHP in the South to implement a polio campaign integrated with Vit A supplementation in the context of COVID-19. A total of 1.16 million (94%) children aged 0-59 months and a total of 848,089 (80%) of children aged 6-59 months were reached with polio vaccine and vit A respectively

### Coordination

UNICEF Regional Office (MENARO) and UNICEF Country Offices across the MENA region continue to engage and work in close cooperation and coordination with governments, WHO, inter-agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centres for Disease Control, INGOs, local NGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies, World Bank and others to avoid overlaps and optimise complementarities in the response. UNICEF is co-leading newly established Issue-Based Coalitions among UN and partners at regional level to foster joint approaches in social protection and youth empowerment and employment within the context of COVID-19.

In education, the regional-interagency coordination team set up to ensure a coordinated response at regional and country level in line with the Global Framework for Reopening Schools in a safely manner is preparing joint webinar on inclusivity as well as a ministerial roundtable promoting continued learning in the coming school year, whether through face-to-face or remote learning. UNICEF also leads/co-leads the education clusters and working groups in nine (9) countries in the region, namely, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and State of Palestine, working with various partners and counterparts to ensure the contextualization of guidelines for continued learning.

### Advocacy

UNICEF – both the regional and country offices – continue to engage and work in close cooperation and coordination with governments, WHO, Inter Agency taskforces/other UN agencies, Centres for Disease Control, INGOs, local NGOs and other stakeholders including donor agencies, World Bank and others to avoid overlaps and optimise complementarities

### External Media

**MAIN COVID-19 Page**

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



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

## CAMPAIGN PAGES

[لا تنسوا الكمامة#](#)

[#MaskUp](#)

## PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

[الاتحاد الأوروبي يساهم بمبلغ 1.5 مليون يورو من أجل دعم استجابة اليونيسف لكوفيد-19 الهادفة لمساعدة الأطفال والعائلات الأكثر هشاشة جراء النزاع في سوريا](#)

[The European Union contributes €1.5 million to UNICEF COVID-19 response for vulnerable children and families in Syria](#)

[UNICEF airlifts its biggest PPE shipment to help Sudan contain COVID-19 outbreak](#)

[اليونيسف تنقل أكبر شحنة من معدات الوقاية الشخصية جواً لمساعدة السودان على احتواء تفشي فيروس كوفيد – 19](#)

[حملة اليونيسف للتشجيع على استخدام أغطية الوجه بالتزامن مع ارتفاع عدد حالات "كوفيد-19" في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا](#)

[UNICEF campaign on wearing masks as COVID-19 cases soar across the Middle East and North Africa](#)

[اليونيسف تنقل جواً مزيداً من الإمدادات لمجابهة جائحة كوفيد-19 في اليمن](#)

[Joint news note - ECHO and UNICEF](#)

[ومنظمة اليونيسف-ECHO بيان صحفي مشترك – صادر عن](#)

## PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

[الجاهزية للعودة](#)

[Ready to Come Back](#)

## ARTICLES AND BLOGS

[Surviving conflict, displacement and a pandemic: Jawaher's story](#)

[Youth help fight COVID-19 in Aleppo](#)

## Resource Mobilisation & Partnerships

UNICEF MENA's latest appeal for US\$356.9 million seeks to support government efforts and interventions to prevent the spread of the virus and respond to those that have been affected through the provision of critical supplies and adequate health care, as well as responding to the social economic impacts of the disease. UNICEF has so far received \$195 million – accounting for 55% of the target - however, the region still urgently needs an additional \$162 million to support governments, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus. UNICEF MENA would like to express its sincere gratitude for the generous contributions from its public and private partners, such as the United States of America, the Government of Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the Government of Germany, the Government of Canada and the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). UNICEF MENA also accessed generous flexible contributions received centrally to address immediate funding gaps of critical interventions.

A series of partnerships with the private sector has aimed at promoting continuous learning, skilling, and psychosocial support. In Jordan, UNICEF launched the Youth Learning Passport platform, a global digital learning platform powered by Microsoft on 10 June, the first country in the MENA region to roll out the programme. Currently, 538 young people are enrolled in courses on the platform, which offers free access to courses, such as advanced coding and software development, digital literacy, life skills, social entrepreneurship and the English language. Zain, one of Jordan's biggest mobile network operators, has already made a commitment to provide zero-rated access to this platform to support youth in continuing learning and skills development. In partnership with Sharek, a Tunisian startup, 650 laptops/tablets with internet connection are being distributed to vulnerable children to enable them to access to distance learning opportunities with UNICEF Tunisia support. UNICEF Tunisia, in partnership with the private sector, is supporting the Ministry of Health with the design and the launch of a new communication campaign to prevent further spread of COVID-19, as Tunisia reopens its borders and prepares for its annual summer tourist season. 30,000 copies of textbooks have been delivered with the support of the private sector to implementing partners in Egypt to be distributed to community school students to support and enhance distance/home-based learning with UNICEF support. In Iran, UNICEF expanded its outreach and engagement for the psychosocial support online campaign through private sector donors, as well as its support to adolescent well-being clubs in seven cities. Additionally, in support of the Ministry of Interior, UNICEF Iran launched a nation-wide campaign and a 'call to action for children and youth' on COVID-19 within the

framework of Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) for artwork, including painting and miniblog by children and adolescents on the matters related to COVID-19 and how it has affected their lives.

## Funding Status\*

Country	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Algeria	\$1,405,000	\$3,121,845	\$0	0%
Djibouti	\$7,935,000	\$2,181,311	\$5,753,689	73%
Egypt	\$30,916,000	\$5,537,094	\$25,378,906	82%
Iran	\$17,210,970	\$7,305,653	\$9,905,317	58%
Iraq	\$11,837,000	\$6,743,952	\$5,093,048	43%
Jordan	\$22,709,753	\$20,583,608	\$2,126,145	9%
Lebanon	\$58,902,507	\$22,426,774	\$36,475,733	62%
Libya	\$16,100,000	\$7,219,033	\$8,880,967	55%
Morocco	\$5,070,000	\$4,128,070	\$941,930	19%
Oman	\$360,000	\$147,456	\$212,544	59%
State of Palestine	\$16,065,645	\$12,349,279	\$3,716,366	23%
Sudan	\$24,535,000	\$24,712,350	\$0	0%
Syria	\$30,581,925	\$26,015,040	\$4,566,885	15%
Tunisia	\$8,100,000	\$5,211,640	\$2,888,360	36%
Yemen	\$103,257,802	\$45,482,116	\$57,775,686	56%
MENARO	\$1,906,000	\$1,349,411	\$556,589	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$356,892,602</b>	<b>\$194,514,632</b>	<b>\$162,377,970</b>	<b>45%</b>

\* As defined in the Humanitarian Appeal of 12/05/2020 for a period of 9 months. Funds Available are as of 22/08/2020.

Funding available includes COVID-19 related top ups to existing contributions, as well as re-programmed funding negotiated and approved by the donors for contributions originally issued for the other than COVID-19 purposes.

For information on the funding status of the US\$1.6 billion global UNICEF appeal, visit: [www.unicef.org/coronavirus/donors-and-partners](http://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/donors-and-partners)

## Next SitRep: 30 September 2020

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## Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Programme Response Targets	2020 target*	Total results	UNICEF	Results in the reporting period ▲▼
<b>Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)</b>				
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	258,170,000	269,332,725		31,241,816
Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	42,923,500	37,146,271		8,331,491
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	2,375,000	673,395		107,026
<b>Infection prevention control (IPC)/ WASH</b>				
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	11,322,774	12,413,752		458,615
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	75,125	122,484		39,786
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	19,924	9,709		2,200
<b>Continuity of essential health and nutrition services</b>				
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	17,150	7,432		435
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential new-born care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities	7,462,158	5,495,813		814,370
Number of caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 through national communication campaigns	4,465,670	2,098,302		373,648
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	665,400	193,839		31,995
<b>Continuity of education, child protection, social protection and social sector financing and gender-based violence services</b>				
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	7,264,557	3,927,466		479,262
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	31,766	8,627		7,777
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	19,062	12,991		120
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	442,153	314,046		88,712
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	3,434	3,613		487
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	306,650	136,982		11,739
Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19-19-19	174,500	65,070		54,653
Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	20,837,000	11,889,943		32,153

\*Targets are as of August 26, 2020.