



# Middle East & North Africa Region

## COVID-19

Situation Report No. 12



for every child

Reporting Period: 22 October – 22 November 2020

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### Highlights

- As of 22 November, a total of 3.4 million COVID-19 cases have been registered in the region of which 591,802 remain active, and resulting in 89,891 deaths.
- UNICEF remained dedicated to protecting frontline workers and provided training on Infection Prevention Control (IPC) to almost 5,000 health workers during the reporting period. In addition, around 19,000 healthcare workers were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Across the region, continued focus has been placed on collecting and disseminating information as part of UNICEF's risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) efforts. During the reporting period alone, over 13 million individuals have been reached and almost 170,000 have provided useful feedback.
- Almost 8.5 million children and women received continued health and nutrition services despite lockdown disruptions, including 336,000 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children received treatment.
- As many schools shut down in the region to prevent further spreading of COVID-19 cases, UNICEF continued to reach almost six million children with mix/alternative learning solutions. More than 29,000 schools received support to implement safe school reopening protocols.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, close to half a million children, parents and caregivers received mental health and psychosocial support, including additional 50,000 for the reporting period alone
- To date, 13,177,257 households have benefited from new or additional social assistance measures, as part of UNICEF's support to governments', while more than 57,000 households have received humanitarian cash grants.

### Situation in Numbers



**COVID-19 cases:**  
**3.4 million total cases.**  
**591,802 active cases**

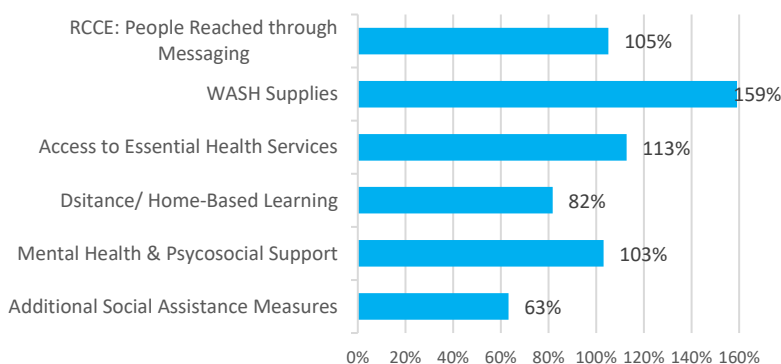


**Death toll:**  
**89,891 total deaths**

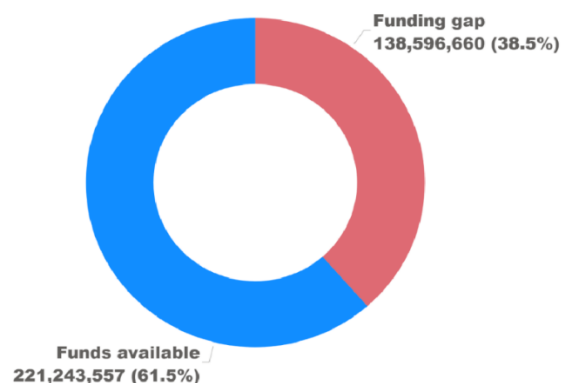


**138.6 million**  
 funding gap for UNICEF regional response

### Summary of Programme Response Targets



### Funding Status (US\$)



## Situation Overview

As of 22 November, the MENA region has registered more than 3.4 million cases resulting in 89,891 deaths since the epidemic began. Over the past four weeks, a sharp increase of COVID-19 cases was observed in some MENA countries. Iran remains the country reporting the highest number of weekly cases in the region (accounting for 38 per cent of the new cases in the region), followed by Jordan and Morocco (with 16 and 13 per cent respectively). Also, more than half of the deceased COVID-19 cases in the past week were reported from Iran where public hospitals continue to struggle with the high number of COVID-19 patients and adherence to individual preventive measures remains weak. According to official sources, gatherings in houses seems to be one of the main sources of transmission causing between 30 to 50 per cent of all COVID-19 infections in Iran.

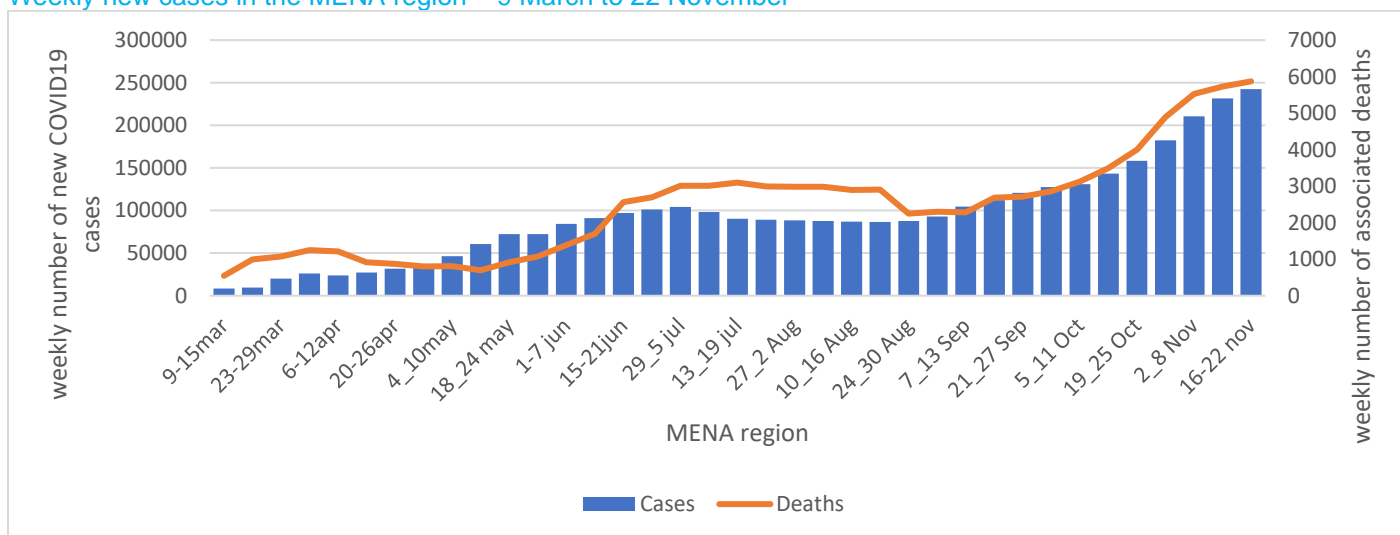
In the past four weeks, Jordan (2.6-fold), Egypt (two-fold), Algeria (four-fold), the State of Palestine (2.6-fold), Sudan (2.4-fold) and Syria (1.7-fold) have registered a significant increase of new cases. This may be due to pandemic fatigue that in turn makes the population less compliant with individual preventive measures. With 49 deaths per one million, Jordan recorded the highest COVID-19 mortality rate in the region, followed by Iran and Tunisia. In these countries, health care facilities have begun to reach their limits, requiring additional resources such as field hospitals to be put in place. In Jordan, the occurrence of new cases is still high with 39,751 cases last week alone.

Despite an uninterrupted rise of registered COVID-19 cases since August, Morocco has recorded a sharp increase of cases in the last three weeks, reaching 30,000 new cases and 559 deaths per week with the largest toll in bigger cities. Also, since early October, the State of Palestine witnessed a sharp increase of cases and deaths (1.8-fold recorded at the end of October) that may be due to an increased testing capacity. As a result, new partial lockdowns are scheduled throughout the West Bank and Gaza governorates.

After two months of low levels of infections, Sudan experienced a new wave of COVID-19 cases, reaching 1,213 cases and 77 deaths. However, most of the tests were carried out for travellers who are leaving the country, suggesting the absence of a clear testing strategy to control the epidemic domestically. Considering the low coverage of testing facilities and the concomitance with other health emergencies, it is probable that the COVID-19 epidemic continues to evolve in silence with associated fatalities not always attributed to it.

After most countries across the region reopened schools over the past few months, many have closed again as a precautionary measure following the detection of community-transmitted cases of COVID-19. Despite early containment measures such as lockdown and travel restrictions, the overall COVID-19 reality in MENA countries of focus remains fragile.

Weekly new cases in the MENA region – 9 March to 22 November



## Socio-Economic Impact and Humanitarian Needs

The economies of the MENA region continue to be heavily weighed by COVID-19, accounting for losses of jobs and incomes. Combined with the collapse in oil prices, this has had a negative influence as a fiscal deterrent for MENA governments economies, which further highlights underlying macro-economic and labour market imbalances on a regional level, as well as the deepening socio-economic inequalities between groups.

All the essential aspects of children's' lives are thus affected, including but not limited to, their access to health and nutrition services, social interaction as well as mental health. A recent report released by Morocco's High Commission on Planning with support from UNICEF summarizes the specific impact on children, showing how unavoidable the impact of the COVID-19 is on their lives, especially for the most disadvantaged socio-economic classes in namely education and access to essential needs.

The World Bank (WB) forecasts an overall contraction of the MENA economy by 5.2 per cent in 2020, with an expected timid recovery during 2021 at 0.3 per cent growth. Governments' financial situations have also deteriorated, as a result of a combination of declining public revenues and increasing expenditures required to respond to the pandemic, with public debt projected to rise significantly in the next few years (from 45 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 58 per cent in 2022, according to the WB)<sup>1</sup>. Under these growing pressures on their internal finance, several governments in the region can be expected to face major and growing constraints in financing their economic and social protection policies to counteract the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the coming months.

In Syria for example, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated drawn-out trends of an economic crisis, with a further deterioration of the already precarious food security situation in the country. According to results of a needs assessment conducted by the World Food Programme in June 2020, 34 per cent of the surveyed households reported poor or borderline food consumption, with a 15 per cent increase compared with one year prior.

Lastly, in all countries of the region, refugees are among the groups disproportionately suffering from the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, which is intensifying their vulnerability in urban, rural and camp contexts. Aside from challenges faced by governments, civil society organizations and international actors<sup>2</sup>, refugee children and in particular unaccompanied and separated minors face continued hardships in accessing protection, shelter, water, sanitation, food, health care, as well as education.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

As part of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) response to date, a total of 271,490,648 people have been reached with key information and prevention messages since the beginning of the epidemic. From this figure, 40,586,530 people have been engaged and almost 1.2 million individuals have provided feedback. UNICEF continues to co-lead RCCE response coordination across the region, including the use of social and behavioural change evidence in preparation for COVID-19 vaccine introduction. For example, in Iran, UNICEF is in discussion with the Ministry of Health's Centre for Disease Control (CDC) concerning the development of the COVID-19 vaccine RCCE strategy, taking into account a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey on vaccine perceptions.

Several country offices reported conducting campaigns/activities focusing on various topics during the World's Children Day on 20 November. In Algeria for example, UNICEF collaborated with "The National Body for Child's Protection and Promotion," to launch communication for development campaign celebrating the day, focusing on participation as well as children's protection from violence.

There has been significant progress in ensuring that children and women continue to receive essential health and nutrition services despite COVID-19 limitations. A total of 1,024,394 additional children and women have been reached during the reporting period. This accounted for a total of almost 8.5 million individuals since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, with a particular increase in countries like Iraq. Furthermore, nutrition services have been advancing as per activity plan, whereby a total of 2.9 million caregivers have received key messages related to breastfeeding. A notable increase has been recorded from Lebanon where UNICEF covered 420,000 additional caregivers during the reporting period.

The ongoing conflict in several MENA countries, namely Syria, Yemen, and Libya, further complicated planned activities for children in difficult to reach locations. In Yemen for example, the closure of schools had a serious impact on children as not only was there no educational substitute, but pupils also missed out on school feeding which is a primary source of nutrition for many. Similarly, efforts to provide services for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have continued were a total of 336,039 children during the reporting period. A significant part of these achievements is from Sudan, despite travel and physical access restrictions.

By November, most schools in the region had shut down due to COVID-19 lockdowns and shifted to online operation, and beyond just online. UNICEF continued to advocate access to education and early childhood development (ECD) services for all, including promoting the continuity of learning. All MENA countries had created new remote learning platforms, which in some cases was mixed between mostly online learning and in few circumstances in person (such as for examinations) in countries as Iraq, Libya, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

UNICEF continued working on strategies for accelerated actions to end violence against children across the region. A multi-country evaluation of programmes in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon was launched in November and is expected to be finalized by April 2021. This evaluation will allow for public advocacy and programming against the increased report of violence against children at home and online. Additionally, five countries (Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, the State of Palestine and Kuwait) are supporting gender-based violence (GBV) referral systems which also included adopting cash transfers to vulnerable families.

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2020) *MENA Economic Update* (October 2020)

<sup>2</sup> UNESCWA (2020) *Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants and Refugees in the Arab Region*, <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/impact-covid-19-migrants-refugees-arab-region>

Partners in Yemen expressed concern that child marriage had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to increased financial constraint faced by families. This was also witnessed in Jordan as rates of child marriage were also reportedly increasing in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, further exacerbated by losses of informal labour opportunities and increased food insecurity.

Focus remained on preventing gender-based violence activities during the reporting period, particularly mainstreaming gender in WASH and social protection responses benefiting the most disadvantaged women and children. It has been noted that more countries in the region were taking specific measures to increase equity of access to services. Alternative measures were taken to delivery services, including counselling, via the use of telemedicine and digital technologies (This approach was successful in countries like Algeria, Iraq, the State of Palestine, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait).

In November, despite hurdles, UNICEF country offices in the MENA region continued their efforts to meet the targets related to the three main Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) indicators, reaching additional 1.5 million individuals with critical WASH services and supplies. Approximately 198,000 health workers have been protected from COVID-19 through the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) with the most notable increase in Libya and Yemen. As at the end of the reporting period, 97 per cent of the targeted 19,924 health workers have been trained in IPC; global guidelines and training tools which were rolled out in most of the countries during October and November.

Also, to avert the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on essential Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services, UNICEF, in a collaboration with WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and United Nations Population Fund's Regional Office for Arab States, organized the joint virtual meeting with the Ministers of Health from nine countries. These countries (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen) have a high under-five mortality rate and/or experiencing an emergency humanitarian crisis which is why it was key to discuss responses, challenges, lessons learned and future actions to ensure RMNCAH essential services during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Several strategic actions have emerged from the discussion: (a) to ensure continuity of RMNCAH services including primary health care, triage and referral system, (b) strengthen the role of community health workers, (c) increase support to introduce digital health for RMNCAH services, (d) strengthen RMNCAH service data monitoring and surveillance, and (e) improve the capacity of healthcare workers on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) in RMNCAH service delivery.

UNICEF also contributed to the [Word Innovation Health Forum](#), held between 16 – 18 November special sessions on Public Health Approaches to Addressing Violence Against Children through three panels: (a) child and adolescent health during COVID-19, protecting the vulnerable, (b) a public health approach to addressing violence against children and (c) child development in the information age.

## UNICEF Country Offices Programme Response

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

### Algeria

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

Through social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn), UNICEF reached approximately 800,000 individuals with key messages on back-to-school safety, important COVID-19 behaviours, the COVID-19 vaccine (the global launch of the COVAX facility) and child rights (during World Children's Day "Re-imagine Campaign").

In collaboration with "The National Body for Child's Protection and Promotion," UNICEF launched the communication for development campaign celebrating World Children's Day, focusing on children's protection from violence and participation.

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

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in organizing an online training of more than 300 health professionals (psychologists and child psychiatrists) on the prevention and care of COVID-19 impact on mental health and the prevention from the negative impact on children during the lockdown.

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

The back to school initiative has been implemented for all the pupils enrolled at all levels, the Ministry of Education (MoE) is setting up a strict sanitation protocol. UNICEF continues to support the MoE in experimenting with digital learning by equipping 50 digital classrooms in 10 primary schools for the benefit of vulnerable pupils.

UNICEF has developed a guidebook for children with learning difficulties and dealing with post-stress COVID-19 which is to be used by teachers and school guidance counsellors. Also, during the reporting period, the national plan to prevent, and respond to school dropout was finalized with UNHCR support.



“The National Body for Child Protection and Promotion” as part of its continuous efforts to fight violence against children, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a national seminar towards the end of October. The focus of the seminar was on the role of civil society in the prevention of crimes. This was a key milestone for the development of the law related to the prevention and fight against the crimes of kidnapping, which included the involvement of more than 120 associations from the civil society, as well as presence high-level officials.

## Djibouti

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the RCCE campaign launch to contribute to the return-to-school in the context of COVID-19.

UNICEF conducted an integrated polio campaign with prevention messages linked to COVID-19 and continuity of health services during the reporting period. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the recruitment of a national consultant process for the finalization of COVID-19 surveys and protocols.

Additionally, UNICEF integrated COVID-19 vaccine-related question items to a Perception Survey that will be launched next month.

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

UNICEF continues to support the continuity of health and nutrition services within the on-going COVID-19 context, including the intensification of field monitoring and supervision of activities taking into account COVID-19 measures. In line with IPC targets for COVID-19, 50 health workers and 200 community actors received comprehensive training package in terms of infection prevention and control.

UNICEF has mobilized all of its key stakeholders within the education sector to assist the MoE in securing the return-to-school across the country to affirm supporting access to continuous education, social and child protection, as well as GBV services, remain reachable.

### Data collection and analysis of secondary impacts on children and women

Several initiatives to collect and analyse data on the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 and in partnership with the World Bank and other UN agencies remains ongoing.

## Egypt

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) campaign that was launched in October on precautionary measures in the context of safe school operations for a reach on social media of 1,285,956 and an engagement of 330,310 since the previous reporting period.

The National Population Council received training for 90 volunteers from ‘The Egyptian Youth Initiative’, supporting peers and parents during COVID-19 supported by UNICEF. During the reporting period, the trained volunteers conducted step-down and peer-to-peer education training, which resulted in additional 5,795 youth volunteers (62 per cent female) trained, ready to engage with youth and parents on COVID-19 related subjects. The taught volunteers reached an additional 75,020<sup>3</sup> (48 per cent female) and engaged an additional 6,848 (70 per cent female)<sup>4</sup> through the Egyptian Youth Initiative Facebook Page.

In partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, through the National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative’s Facebook Page (Dawwie), UNICEF reached 83,810 girls and boys and engaged 1,527 (44 per cent girls aged 13-17 years) on positive gender roles and maintaining healthy practices.

Ongoing training continued for 80 new social workers from the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS). To date, 130 have been trained, of which 90 per cent are female, on positive parenting during COVID-19 and conducted face-to-face engagement and parenting skills classes with 6,500 parents in five governorates.

UNICEF assisted the MoSS in interacting with the most vulnerable families through a COVID-19 related quiz, reaching additional 15,000 households.

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

UNICEF procured and delivered additional five ventilators and 20,000 gowns for health facilities nationwide, enough to protect additional 2,857 health providers, bringing the cumulative figure to 116,083 front-line personnel.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Cumulative to date: 92,707

<sup>4</sup> Cumulative to date: 10,493

<sup>5</sup> To date UNICEF procured and delivered to the MoHP a total of 6,361,338 pieces of PPEs including 3,980,418 gloves, 1,948,650 surgical masks, 2,050 N95 masks, 380,115 gowns, 3,000 coveralls, 5 ventilators and 40,100 face shields, enough to protect a cumulative of 116,083 front-line personal.

15 primary health centres in four governorates (Assiut, Fayoum, Sharkia and Qalyoubia) have been equipped with improved WASH facilities. Additionally, 45 centres and three hospitals are undergoing physical WASH rehabilitations expected to be finalized by the end of December 2020.

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

UNICEF facilitated additional face-to-face training for 155 health professionals, including training of 90 community health workers in three governorates on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). An additional 50 health professionals in primary health care centres were qualified on safe vaccination during COVID-19 and 15 peer educators to provide support to women/mothers living with HIV on adherence to treatment, nutrition, prevention of mother to child transmission. An estimated 117,666 caregivers of children (aged 0-23 months) received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages through social media and community platforms.<sup>6</sup>

An estimated 208,132 women and children<sup>7</sup> received essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities; 134,678 children benefited from immunization and growth monitoring, while 29,355 women benefitted from post-natal services and 44,099 from antenatal care.

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

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE), the third round of Teacher Preparedness Training Package (TPTP) has been successfully conducted with 17 master trainers from North Sinai. The training package includes three modules: (a) Safe School Operations, (b) Wellbeing and Protection, and (c) Back to Learning and it aims at equipping teachers with necessary skills to deal with the challenges that might arise due to resuming schools in light of COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Education Working Group, organized two consultative meetings with 59 refugee community school managers to discuss safe school operation and continuity of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF, along with implementing partners, reached a total of 9,191 children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support during the reporting period, 4,686 through emergency programmes (3,885 Egyptians and 801 from refugee communities) as well as 4,229 community members in Upper Egypt through a partnering NGO providing phone counselling. Another 276 children, through another partner in Cairo and Alexandria, provided specialized services to Egyptian children.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, 167 persons received psychosocial messaging through social media, reaching a cumulative of 33,283 since the beginning of COVID-19 response.

#### Social policy and social sector financing

Data collection for the third round of UNICEF's phone survey, which was conducted in collaboration with the public opinion research agency Baseera, has been completed. Results from this round will be available in December. In addition to the sample of about 1,500 households of the Egyptian population, a sample of about 200 respondents from the refugee population that had a child in their household, are also being interviewed in each round of these phone surveys. Results from the second round for refugee population are currently available and have been shared with selected stakeholders and partners in the form of a short bulletin.<sup>9</sup> From the results, about nine in 10 households reported a decrease in household income and 80 per cent reported decreasing household expenditure, specifically on food, health services and medication, and children education post the onset of the pandemic. Also, about one in every two households faced difficulties in accessing medical consultation.

MoSS, with the technical support of UNICEF, provided through the secondment of a senior advisor, continues its support to the non-contributory social protection policy coordination for COVID-19 responses. The senior advisor has been continuing the support for the workers, through collaborating with the Ministries of Manpower, Finance, Health, the National Organization for Social Insurance and Administrative Control Authority to draft national strategy for extend the social protection for workers and improving their registration in the official databases. Also, to lessen the risk of COVID-19 spread, the scenario for the disbursements to pensioners into separate groups over the first week of the month was followed to avoid overcrowding, in addition to the exemption of fees for ATM withdrawals.

Following the webinar "What does global evidence tell us about social assistance response to large external shocks in Egypt?", J-PAL MENA and UNICEF have organized a virtual closed session for an insightful discussion with J-PAL affiliate William Parienté and a selected number of academics and development practitioners on evidence related to graduation interventions and shocks.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Cumulative to date: 531,620 caregivers.

<sup>7</sup> A total of 1,446,593 women and children received essential services through UNICEF support since the beginning of the response.

<sup>8</sup> Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, MHPSS services were provided to a cumulative of 42,329 (34,122 through emergency programmes including 25,302 Egyptians and 8,820 persons on the move, 1,218 through MoSS case management units, and 6,989 through other partnering NGOs). Note: data for MoSS case management units is only until end of July 2020 and is missing data from some governorates.

<sup>9</sup> These results are more indicative in nature and are not statistically robust owing to the small sample and the completeness of the sampling list of refugee households from which the samples are drawn.

<sup>10</sup> The presentation and discussion that followed focused on program designs of graduation models in Africa can help us design more resilient and adaptive social protection programs and Egypt's own adaptation of the graduation approach.

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

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

Under the banner of “Childhood Reimagined,” UNICEF Qatar partnered with the World Innovation Summit for Health to deliver a [special Summit Day](#) to commemorate the 2020 World’s Children Day. The high-level event opened with a [special address](#) from UNICEF’s Executive Director Ms Henrietta Fore and Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani of Qatar, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The day addressed pressing issues affecting children today, including child and adolescent health during COVID-19, with a focus on protecting vulnerable children, a public health approach to addressing violence against children as well as child development in the information age. It brought together government, academic, civil society/NGO and other experts from around the world, including the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (UN SRSG VAC) and other international, regional and Qatari experts. At the heart of the event, were children and young persons, with [special performances](#) from America’s Got Talent winner Kodi Lee and Qatar Music Academy. It is estimated that approximately 70,000 people visited the virtual summit. This event has laid the groundwork for UNICEF and other key stakeholders to engage in growing coordination mechanism to support the government to strengthen child protection systems in Qatar.

UNICEF UAE continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in rolling out Module 2 of the ‘Ready to Come Back: Teacher Preparedness Training Package’ with over 2,100 teachers and nurses trained cumulatively by November 2020. UNICEF worked with MoE in adapting the package to the country context and in conducting the trainings. The positive uptake of the training has resulted in the integration of the toolkit in the training platform of the ministry, accessible to many more teachers.

UNICEF in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) collaborated with Child Helpline International and UNICEF Egypt to deliver targeted training on sustaining the services of hotlines in times of crisis. With 40 service providers from the two most utilized hotlines in attendance, the workshop covered quality standards and tackled issues such as disruption in services, quality of referral, communication and advocacy around hotlines, contingency planning in times of crisis and supporting the well-being of service providers themselves. The series is part of an interagency effort with UN sister agencies in KSA, in collaboration with the National Family Safety Program.

UNICEF Kuwait delivered one of six keynote interventions, together with World Bank, UNESCO, Oxford University, Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority, and Early Childhood Research Centre at a technical seminar organized by the Regional Centre for Educational Planning (RCEP). With a focus on trends and good practice in early childhood development and care, the workshop addressed systems and policies in early childhood, the impact of quality early childhood programmes on society and how COVID-19 has affected early childhood. Also, the sessions looked at documented good practice and their implications for future policies and programmes to accelerate SDG 4.

### Social policy and social sector financing

Nearly \$20 million has been mobilized from UNICEF Gulf Area Office (GAO) partners to support UNICEF’s global COVID-19 response programme. The latest contribution of US\$3,947,000 was through the partnership with the Saudi Arabian Federation for Electronic and Intellectual Sports (SAFEIS). The fund was raised through the 2020 Gamers Without Borders professional e-sports competition that took place from May to June 2020, where the winning teams chose UNICEF as the organization they wanted to support. The contribution will specifically support UNICEF’s Global COVID-19 response as well as Sudan and the State of Palestine in the MENA region.

## Iran

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

During the reporting period, nine online communication materials were developed and disseminated through UNICEF’s website, YouTube, Aparat (Iranian YouTube), Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter, our Goodwill Ambassador’s social media account, and UNICEF’s supported adolescent wellbeing clubs. UNICEF’s Instagram followers went up to 366,892, accounting for an 18 per cent increase from last month.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Health (MoH) school health departments, UNICEF is supporting a national multimedia RCCE campaign around COVID-19 prevention measures in schools. This activity has engaged six to 12 and 13 to 18-year-old students throughout the country via online platforms, national TV as well as physically in 100,000 schools.

UNICEF is also supporting MoH’s Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct an online and in Primary Health Care (PHC) campaign with messages around safe, routine vaccination.

Also, UNICEF is in discussion with the CDC concerning the development of the COVID-19 vaccine RCCE strategy, including a KAP study on vaccine perceptions.

UNICEF is advocating with MoH, MoE, IRCS (Iranian Red Crescent Society), and MoYS (Ministry of Youth and Sports) to expand its community engagement in the coming months and address the third wave’s effects of COVID-19 in the country.

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

In cooperation with the Child-friendly Cities Initiative, UNICEF delivered hygiene items to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in support of 30,000 vulnerable children in 38 cities of six under-developed provinces. The hygiene items were distributed through 88 centres (local charities, NGOs and municipalities) to targeted vulnerable children.

### Continuity of health care for women and children

Coordinated by UNICEF, 1,902 test kit packs and 356 additional COVID-19 test kit packs have been procured and received in Iran that will allow 34,176 persons to be tested, which brings the total number of people to be tested to 216,768. At the request of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME), the establishment of breastfeeding tele-counselling centres was suspended.

A total 200,000 HIV rapid test kits were procured for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme as part of the COVID-19 response to ensure regular testing of pregnant/lactating women and their children.

UNICEF signed the 2020-2022 Programme of Cooperation Workplan with the Ministry of Education (MoE), providing support to the national education response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This programme enhances both the coverage and quality of distance learning and to ensure safe operations in 1,000 schools in five disadvantaged provinces.

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

Education focal points completed the translation of the "Ready to Come Back; A Teacher Preparedness Training Package" from English into Persian. UNICEF will work with MoE to ensure all teachers will have access to this package which will help to promote the quality of the distance learning.

Training of the State Welfare Organization's social workers, who work with children in family-based foster care settings, on "Parenting During COVID-19 Outbreak" is completed. As per the initial plan, the social workers will provide counselling services to the children and their caregivers in five pilot provinces.

In support to the Ministry of Sport and Youth and Adolescent Wellbeing Clubs (affiliated to MoHME/Centre for Disease Control), UNICEF completed clinical supervision for 126 trained counsellors and additional training is on the process for those not certified. With Remote Stepped Psychosocial Care and Support (ReSPCT), approximately 150 adolescents, youths and parents received the services through tele-counselling.

## Iraq

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF's digital channels continue to show significant growth in user engagement, with Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter totalling close to 40,000 new followers. During the reporting period, approximately nine million people were reached, of which, 150,000 individuals engaged in exchanges. Topics of discussion included COVID-prevention, Global Handwashing day, as well as UNICEF's global World Children's Day and "Reimagine Your Future" campaign.

Registration of youth to the "Voices of Youth (VOY)" platform increased: 88 youth (57 girls) across Iraq are now active contributors. They produce videos and blogs covering key health and hygiene messages, countering disinformation, misinformation, and stigma, and narrating positive steps for young people in the response.

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

Through an in-kind donation from Unilever Group, a total of 135,000 students from 180 schools and six colleges in Muthanna, Erbil, Basrah, Dohuk, Ninawa, Kirkuk and Baghdad received toilet soap bars to support their practice on hand hygiene in their learning spaces. Linked to the "World Toilet Day", in Basra, 55 schools were supported through the construction/installation of prefab WASH facilities, including handwashing facilities, helping preparations for school re-opening benefiting 30,000 students.

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

UNICEF continues to screen children between 6-59 months using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for growth in IDPs/refugee camps. During the reporting period, a total of 1,348 children benefited from this whereas the cumulative for the year stands at 40,023 recipients. Cumulatively, 518 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases identified in the IDPs/refugee camps and referred for follow-up of which 22 were treated in November. Regarding Moderate Acute Malnutrition, 82 children were identified and treated in IDPs/refugee camps. Within the same setting, across the country, 533 pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling bringing the overall figure to 18,186 women. Also, 28,895 women benefited from Antenatal Care (ANC)/Postnatal Care (PNC) visits in the 10 governorates. Lastly, 85,405 infants (aged <12m) were vaccinated against measles during the reporting period.

### Supporting access to education, Child Protection and GBV services

A total of 22,784 individuals were reached by child protection services, including 9,837 individuals receiving face-to-face and remote Psycho-Social Support (PSS). PSS kits were delivered to 1,387 family-based households to help parents



and children creatively use the time at home and encourage more caregiver-children interaction. Also, 1,519 (49 per cent girls) old cases were followed up on in-person and 451 children (45 per cent girls) old cases were followed-up by social workers remotely.

With the support of UNICEF, 53 juveniles and 22 women have been released from detention. This brings to total number to 767 children (9 per cent girls) freed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Iraq. UNICEF also supported the reintegration of 42 women into society.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) case management services were provided to 189 affected persons (62 and 21 per cent women and girls respectively) remotely as well as in-person. Also, 154 GBV survivors (60 and 40 per cent women and girl respectively) received individual or group psychosocial services; while 1,640 individuals (48, 24, 12 and 16 per cent women, girls, boys and men respectively) were reached with community awareness-raising sessions, promoting GBV prevention and safer environment for women and girls.

COVID-19 prevention messages continued to be mainstreamed as part of UNICEF's IPC focus. A total of 1,354 individuals (61 and 39 per cent children and adults respectively) have received awareness-raising on COVID-19 through community mobilizers via UNICEF's implementing partners in camps and non-camp locations.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) was supported by UNICEF, both in Federal and Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) in their efforts to provide interactive education packages by signing an agreement with Big Bad Boo. The emphasis of this deal is on life skills and civic values to the most vulnerable children.

Following the Joint Work Plan signed between WFP (World Food Programme) and UNICEF, a cooperation agreement has also been signed that will support 2,400 girl students make the transition from primary school to intermediate secondary school in. WFP and UNICEF will bring together in this project their combined expertise to implement an innovative cash pilot to support the transition of girl children to secondary school.

During the past month, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) resumed with a final disbursement of the Minha cash transfer (targeting households affected by COVID-19 socio-economic impacts) to 657,000 households as part of UNICEF's social protection policy. This brings the total number of affected populations, since April, to 2,107,000 households. UNICEF continued to support the MoLSA on awareness-raising campaigns to social protection network in Basra governorate. 20 social workers were trained by UNICEF and so far, 1655 households benefited from the campaign, including a total number of 3329 children.

## Jordan

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

Supporting the national COVID-19 campaign<sup>11</sup> with UNICEF, approximately three million people were reached through partners' social media platforms. Four campaign-branded buses with screens displaying videos are being utilized for the campaign, with buses travelling through high footfall traffic routes and reaching around 40,000 individuals per week. Key messages were also displayed on 65 screens at gas stations (JO Petrol, Gulf and Total stations), reaching approximately 9.1 million people.

In cooperation with partners, UNICEF disseminated messages on COVID-19 risk mitigation and hygiene practices through 141 WhatsApp messaging groups, reaching 3,806 individuals (45 per cent female) in refugee camps during the reporting period.

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

UNICEF continued supplying water, averaging 60 litres per person per day, to over 113,000 refugees residing in Azraq, King Abdullah Park (KAP) and Za'atari refugee camps to support COVID-19 handwashing and hygiene practice infection and prevention control measures. For the above-mentioned camps and in coordination with partners, UNICEF has continued to disinfect all vehicles that entered the locations. Also, in all three camps, UNICEF supported 8,221 individuals (45 per cent female) with the distribution of critical hygiene and sanitation supplies<sup>12</sup> and the provision of additional quantities of clean water.

In Azraq camp, UNICEF and Medical Corps (IMC) expanded the network and WASH units in both the public transit area and the International for COVID-19 treatment facility; the excavation works for the water and wastewater networks were completed for all 100 new WASH units. In KAP camp, UNICEF completed the installation of private latrines, benefitting all 600 residents (50 per cent female), and 25 water tanks to provide additional water supply for increased handwashing, to limit the spread of COVID-19.

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<sup>11</sup> The national COVID-19 campaign, launched in March 2020, is headed by the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce, whose members include the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health (MOH), UNICEF, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the Royal Health Awareness Society.

<sup>12</sup> The following critical hygiene and sanitation supplies have been distributed: 1,025 cleaning kits, 346 hand sanitizer bottles, 472 hygiene kits, 100 jerry cans and 3,628 soap bars.

### Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), supported the provision of mobile immunization for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian children and women in informal tented settlements (ITSs). Through this country-wide remote immunization campaign, a total of 1,217 children under five (50 per cent female) were vaccinated according to MOH's immunization schedule, and 136 women of reproductive age were vaccinated against tetanus, during the reporting period.

From mid-October to mid-November, UNICEF provided essential health and nutrition services in Za'atari and Azraq camps, including new-born care, immunization and treatment of childhood illnesses to 3,365 children (45 per cent girls).

UNICEF Jordan's telehealth programme provided 1,070 youth (52 per cent female) with telemedical services, in partnership with the online platform, [Altibbi](#).

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

In September, over 22,000 teachers enrolled in training on supporting the delivery of the Learning Bridges programme.<sup>13</sup> Since its launch, more than 75 schools in 18 directorates have demonstrated good practices in teaching and learning.

During school closures, UNICEF continued to support 1,523 (48 per cent female) children with disabilities through home visits conducted by shadow teachers and with printed learning materials. In refugee camps, UNICEF delivered learning support services for children with disabilities in Makani centres.

UNICEF provided support to the children and their families in refugee camps that are in self-isolation, providing 973 learning kits to families with children in quarantine. UNICEF also support remote learning for 9,250 families through the provision of monthly 10GB data packages. A total of 2,149 young people (68 per cent female) enrolled in online courses on the Youth Learning Passport platform.<sup>14</sup>

Since January, 46,642 young people (64 per cent female) signed up to access volunteering opportunities through UNICEF Jordan's [Nahno](#) (National Youth Engagement and Volunteering Movement) platform. The volunteer opportunities offered included online awareness sessions on COVID-19, peer-to-peer educational support for home learning and aid distribution to vulnerable households throughout Jordan.

Through a cash-for-work mechanism, UNICEF trained and employed 315 women to produce 780,000 non-medical masks to be distributed to vulnerable populations in Jordan, since June. The positive secondary impacts of this initiative include an increase in women's financial inclusion.

A total of 1,835 children (33 per cent girls) and 3,014 adults (95 per cent female) received community-based mental health and psychosocial support at Makani centres. Remote specialized case management services and helpline support was also implemented in partnership with the Jordan River Foundation during the reporting period. U-Report<sup>15</sup> WhatsApp daily messages were sent to 1,292 families, providing parenting tips and information about psychosocial support, gender-based violence, and protection helplines.

UNICEF trained 25 Makani facilitators (96 per cent female) on the new psychosocial support services manual, which supports facilitators in understanding the impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health and psychosocial well-being, including the increased risk of violence and abuse. The manual also provides key information and activities for facilitators, parents and communities to support children in learning positive coping mechanisms for their effective recovery from challenges experienced during the pandemic.

The Makani centre programme also reached an additional 5,000 children (54 per cent female) with remote learning support services, a total of 2,000 adolescents and youth (60 per cent female) with remote or in-person life skills activities, and over 2,000 parents (87 per cent female) with remote or in-person Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities.

### Social policy and social sector financing

Cash transfers delivered to a total of 9,818 households, 24 per cent of which are female-headed was supported by UNICEF. This included 29,060 children, of which 49 per cent are girls, since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March. Starting September, the number of households supported by UNICEF cash transfers decreased to 7,068 households (33 per cent female-headed), including 21,825 children (51 per cent girls), as a result of funding constraints.

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<sup>13</sup> Learning Bridges, launched on 20 September by MOE and UNICEF, links textbooks and technology, schools and homes, and knowledge and applied learning. Schools will provide students with weekly printed materials, linked to core curricula objectives, and additional online resources for those with access to technology.

<sup>14</sup> The UNICEF Youth Learning Passport is a global digital learning platform, offering young people the opportunity to continue learning and skills development at home. It is available free-of-charge through this [link](#).

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF's U-Report is a social messaging tool, in the form of a packaged product built on the RapidPro open source software that enables and empowers people to speak out and provide their perspective on a wide range of important issues in their communities. U-Report is a free, non-exclusive tool for community participation, but aims to empower young people to engage in citizen-led development and create positive change.

### Data collection and analysis of secondary impacts on children and women

The Ministry of Education's (MoE) was supported by UNICEF in its "Safely Back to School" campaign, reaching 29,474 children through door-to-door activities and phone calls since the initiation of the campaign in August. As a result, 22,455 (49 per cent female) children were re-enrolled in formal and non-formal education (NFE). A total of 7,019 children (46 per cent female) were identified as out of school – the main reasons for which include financial constraints, lack of transportation, child labour and early marriage.

UNICEF has trained 311 young researchers (67 per cent female) aged 15-24 years old to design studies and carry out remote data collection. Key research topics undertaken include water scarcity and climate action, girls' empowerment, volunteering and mental health.

### Lebanon

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

To enhance prevention measures and accurate information, COVID-19 awareness videos produced by UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Information, WHO and the Lebanese Red Cross, were widely disseminated through national TV stations at the beginning of the country-wide lockdown. UNICEF produced and shared [video-testimonials](#) of people who have contracted COVID-19 as part of external communication and community engagement campaigns. UNICEF reached over 2.6 million individuals. Also, UNICEF created and disseminated a package of [back-to-school videos](#) to enhance COVID-19 preventive measures by children, parents, and teachers. The campaign was interrupted by the lockdown and is expected to resume before school re-opening.

A total of 30 trainings on various aspects of COVID-19 prevention and response were conducted by UNICEF, including mental health. Furthermore, 605 professionals and volunteers were trained on this material, to include health care workers, members of community-based organizations and youth clubs during the reporting period.

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

UNICEF provided 639 Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) kits to families for home isolation and 374 household disinfection kits to families sharing facilities with affected individuals and families<sup>16</sup>. The IPC kits contain disinfection materials and PPE needed for 5 family members for a period of up to 15 days. The kits are distributed along with guidance on home isolation and proper disinfection as well as COVID-19 awareness information by local volunteers trained by UNICEF. UNICEF is also working closely with UNRWA and partners to ensure prepositioning and rapid distribution of IPC kits to Palestinian refugees.

Alongside with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF has set up a hotline for Syrian refugees and Lebanese<sup>17</sup> who tested positive for COVID-19 to request IPC kits for home isolation. Also, UNICEF provided IPC/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies for medical staff, cleaners and patients in 19 isolation centres across Lebanon, including one-time support to three isolation centres, two mental health and one elderly centre.

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

UNICEF distributed essential PPE material to 394 dispensaries, 127 primary health care centres, and 20 Qadaa offices and to personnel were involved in the ongoing Measles campaign. Phase 2 of the measles campaign, targeting 1.1 million children, was launched late October.

With UNICEF assistance, 427,890 fabric masks were distributed to vulnerable groups, including but not limited to girls and boys at risk of abuse, exploitation or gender-based violence, children working on the street or with disabilities. This number also includes pregnant and lactating adolescents.

At border crossings, UNICEF screened and tested 14,748 people, 10 per cent of which are children while providing COVID-19 prevention and home isolation guidance. Also, 712 children received missing measles and polio vaccines.

UNICEF provided prenatal and breastfeeding support to 558 Lebanese and 841 non-Lebanese citizens, and reached 1,258 Lebanese and 1,922 non-Lebanese citizens with information on access to the maternal, child as well as adolescent health services.

UNICEF provided technical guidance in developing Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices standard of operating procedures targeting key stakeholders in protection and promotion of optimal IYCF practices during COVID-19 to avoid a future increase in malnutrition.

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<sup>16</sup> The IPC kits are for positive COVID19 cases and contain PPE and disinfection materials for isolation for a family of five up to 15 days. This includes cleaning cloths, hand sanitizer, thermometer, antiseptic sprays, soap, detergent, bleach, masks, gloves gowns, tissue paper, waste bags, bins with lids, female sanitary pads and flyers. The household disinfection kits are for families sharing spaces with COVID19 positive individuals and contain disinfection materials only. This includes bleach, cloths, soap, laundry detergent and IEC materials.

<sup>17</sup> Palestinian refugees are all referred from MOPH to UNRWA directly, and then UNRWA coordinate the IPC kit distribution through partners.

### Supporting access to Education, Child Protection and GBV services

With partners, UNICEF started remote Non-Formal Education (NFE) learning for children in round two of Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) and Alternative BLN. These programmes were designed for children who move up to the next grade with the regulated curriculum which was modified for remote learning. Teaching support for a smooth transition is being offered to over 13,700 children in Community-based Early Childhood Education (CBECE). The programme includes psycho-social support and wellbeing sessions to children, COVID-19 awareness targeting children as well as caregivers. This transition aid is provided for at least three weeks after which Level 3 students registered under the Ministry for Education and Higher Education (MEHE) will be progressing into Grade 1. Those who are not eligible under the required age will be recommended to join the Preparatory ECE.

UNICEF mobilized 136 youth, who had previously taken part in sewing classes, to produce and deliver over 350,000 masks to municipalities, primary health care centres and vulnerable population across the country. 120 graduates of the UNICEF vocational course on cooking for youth, prepared and distributed 52,000 hot meals to vulnerable families, almost half of them for people in isolation, as part of UNICEF cash for work programme. Another 190 youth were mobilized for plumbing initiatives to maintain the sewage networks for 228 vulnerable households.

In collaboration with the municipality of Tripoli, UNICEF organized two youth-led initiatives aiming to raise awareness on COVID-19 among the local population 50 youth were trained on COVID-19 awareness by Balamand University. Additionally, to strengthen youth mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19, UNICEF conducted online training sessions on drama therapy, time management and setting priorities, reaching 160 youth. UNICEF also disseminated awareness messages on COVID-19 to 431 youth participating in Sports for Development (S4D) sessions.

### Social policy and social sector financing

As Lebanon heads back into a renewed lockdown and as the economic-related impacts of COVID-19 rapidly increase, UNICEF has designed additional assistance for vulnerable households across the country, prioritizing children with disabilities, children returning to school, and those living in extreme poverty.

## Libya

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF and the National Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) launched the national awareness campaign, with 75 billboards promoting handwashing, wearing face masks, and physical distancing reaching 765,000 people in Benghazi, 170,000 in Ajdabiya, 123,250 in Albaida, and 2,000,000 in six municipalities within Tripoli.

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached an agreement with the NCDC to incorporate COVID-19 awareness messages into vaccination cards. Thus far, UNICEF has produced 50,000 cards to be distributed in vaccination centres within 24 municipalities, covering the shortage of cards, which has affected the routine immunization services.

With multiple clusters of cases being registered across Tripoli, UNICEF supported the municipality of central Tripoli in the dissemination of COVID-19 key messages through 90, out of 120, mosques in the municipality.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, two online RCCE training sessions took place. This targeted 38 municipal council members, civil society organizations, local media representatives, and scout leaders in the South.

In partnership with girl and boy scouts as well as Tripoli Optics, UNICEF distributed packages of COVID-19 awareness messages and face masks to 700 children. The activity was part of the World Children's Day celebrations in Sabha, Benghazi, and Tripoli.

On 11 November, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and the Health and Environment Committee of the Libyan Parliament to revise the National Response Plan to Combat Coronavirus in Libya.

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

In coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Scientific Consultative Committee for Coronavirus Pandemic, UNICEF continues the distribution of additional personal protective equipment (PPEs) to 10 COVID-19 isolation centres nationwide<sup>18</sup>. This support targets 100 staff in these sites for three months.

Four training sessions on IPC took place during November reaching 54 people including IDP camp supervisors, public water institutions, and staff of the Ministry of Education.

### Continuity of health care for women and children

During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed batches of PPE to 700 sites. UNICEF's overall support to vaccination sites will benefit 2,035 individuals in 47 municipalities in the western part of the country. The PPEs, which included 199,000 facemasks and 32,560 bottles of hand sanitisers, will be critical to ensure safe continuity of vaccination programmes across the country.

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<sup>18</sup> Misrata, Alkhomis, Alzaweya, Sukaljuma (Imitega), Tripoli centre, Alzantan, Subrata, Benghazi, Ejdabia, Sabha, and Brak Alshati



A total of 10 infant and young child-feeding (IYCF) focal points were trained on counselling mothers on precautionary measures of COVID-19 prevention and health-seeking behaviour. Additionally, 4,000 IYCF counselling materials such as posters and leaflets were distributed to health facilities nationwide, with approximately 2,000 people reached with messages.

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

In coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF distributed a total of 10,000 booklets on the health protocol in schools, developed by the MoE. The booklets cover IPC health and staff measures to ensure the safety of school children in Libya.

Furthermore, as part of the UNICEF “Safely Back to School” campaign and as preparation for Grade 12 final exams, UNICEF disinfected 164 schools in 12 municipalities<sup>19</sup> across the west of Libya. PPE was also distributed as part of the campaign. UNICEF also delivered 300 thermometers, 600 bottles of hand sanitisers, and 60,000 masks to the MoE in the West.

During this reporting period, 1,181 (733 females) children, parents and primary caregivers were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Tripoli and Misrata as part of UNICEF’s emphasis on child protection.

Training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was completed by 980 persons (500 females), including UNICEF personnel and partners. A safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse was available to 3,662 children and adults through the Bayti centres, safe spaces for women and girls, and child-friendly spaces and community centres managed by local implementing partners in Tripoli, Sebha, Misrata, Benghazi and Zwara.

#### Social policy and social sector financing

UNICEF’s WASH programme plans to support an initial 142 Libyan families, out of 1,000 families targeted, with cash assistance in Misrata. A second cash transfer programme at one Bayti Centre<sup>20</sup> in Tripoli will support 200 families and their children with three months cash assistance to mitigate the negative socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

UNICEF is moving forward with exploring potential modalities and innovative methodologies for the roll-out of the socio-economic panel survey, Monitoring of Children and Families in COVID-19 (MCF19). The study will assess both availability of basic services in the targeted 24 municipalities through service mapping, as well as access to basic services and household vulnerability through a household panel survey.

### Morocco

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

UNICEF continuous RCCE efforts reached 1,852,578 persons using social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, cumulating a total of 9,220 engagements. These results are due to two main actions: (a) the ongoing campaign “Living safely with COVID-19” (“Vivre en sécurité avec la COVID-19”) aimed to reinforce compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures. The campaign is currently showcasing celebrities challenging other celebrities and social media fans and (b) UNICEF also seized the opportunity of the new joint World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF coordination communicate on the impact of COVID-19 on education.

Community-based interventions in targeted regions reached 8,773 people, including migrant communities, while 108 persons participated in COVID-19 engagement actions. During the reporting period, a total of 3,653 responses were registered in total.

#### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

During this reporting period, an additional 56 migrant families were reached with critical WASH supplies through the distribution of hygiene kits in Tangier and Tetouan through UNICEF partnerships with civil society organizations.

With the support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has identified 1,225 Primary Health Care (PHC) structures in six regions (Beni Mellal, Marrakech, Oriental, Tanger Tetouan, Sous-Massa, Draa Tafilalet) that will be supported with the procurement of essential IPC material. The procurement is ongoing through UNICEF Supply section and material will be handed over at regional level by UNICEF.

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

A total of 439 migrants were reached with COVID-19 prevention and continuity of health services promotion messages and referral towards health services, through UNICEF partners actions.

<sup>19</sup> Alejelat, Alzawia, Sorman, Zwarah, Regdalil, Mselataha, Alkhomas, Aljdida, Janzoor, Alamreya, Zawia Alghareb and Gser Khyar

<sup>20</sup> Community-Based Child Protection Centres

The training of 220 health workers on the differential diagnosis of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases is being developed by the MoH with UNICEF support and will be delivered through the remote learning platform of the national public health school.

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

Through its partnerships with civil society organizations, UNICEF supported 64 migrant families that were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Tangier and Tetouan, while an additional 1071 vulnerable children, benefitted from the support.

Humanitarian cash transfers were provided to 54 vulnerable households while food kits and medical support were provided to 50 children-on-the-street and youths. 43 vulnerable children were supported to access distance learning or school (in Casablanca) and another 47 households received cash transfers to support them in responding to the secondary impact of the crisis.

A total of 16 partners (68 cumulatively) were trained on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and referrals for survivors. Also, 178 children without parental or family care were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements, including through reintegration back to their biological family. This also included psychosocial support, access to medical services and support for family reintegration.

Also, 92 migrants including children and their families were reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services, while 90 migrants including children and parents were provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support.

Finally, 70 children, including 41 children-on-the-move, continued to be supported through appropriate alternative care in the two transition pilot centres based in Tetouan and Oujda - these centres offer complete support including health, access to education, family reunification, accommodation, juridical and administrative support. 200 families with dependent children with disability continued to receive support.

#### Social policy and social sector financing

UNICEF continued its technical support to the national partners in terms of social protection responses to COVID-19, by contributing to a high-level strategic discussion in parliament on the main options for implementing and financing universal social coverage, particularly in terms of medical coverage and family allowances in collaboration with the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), French Development Agency (AFD) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

#### Data collection and analysis of secondary impacts on children and women

In collaboration with the National Observatory of Human Development, the study report on young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) has been finalised and cleared, with a specific chapter on the impact of COVID-19 on the living conditions of persons of concern.

The specific report on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children based on household phone survey is finalized and validated and its revision is ongoing. UNICEF and Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) started the discussion to conduct a third round of this survey during the upcoming weeks.

During the reporting period and in collaboration with the National School of Public Health, a study protocol related to the needs of migrant children's access to healthcare, which also incorporates a COVID-19 focus, was launched.

### Oman

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

UNICEF continued to support the inter-ministerial RCCE Committee with the implementation of a parenting communication campaign. The parenting strategy developed by UNICEF and the Government of Oman (GoO) seeks to address the secondary impacts of COVID-19 by providing parents with access to credible information, complementing government messaging on COVID-19 prevention and containment measures, as well as messaging on general health and nutrition.

The strategy targets the general public, families of children with disabilities, families of adolescents, and children up to 18 years old. Tailored messages have been crafted for children and adolescents, media personnel, health workers, educators, religious leaders, and community networks.

The RCCE Committee continues to share content under #ForOmansChildren. This hashtag was launched by UNICEF and GoO in September but was officially introduced to audiences via a TV spot in November 2020. As the academic year recommenced on 1 November, the RCCE committee disseminated numerous "back to school" messages under this hashtag across multiple media channels.

The RCCE Committee also continued its work on drafting a broad SBCC strategy that addresses violence against children, including children with disabilities, and early child development and the impact COVID-19 has had in these

three areas. Committee members participated in a workshop on 23 November to validate the initial research on priority behaviours and barriers, audience groups, media landscape, and agree on strategic objectives.

UNICEF continued developing and disseminating messages on its own social media channels, reaching approximately 166,000 people.

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

UNICEF supported the GoO in drawing up guidelines for the return to early child development centres, including nursery schools. 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 to help prevent a new outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. It also considers the multi-faceted impacts on young children, especially the most vulnerable, and support that may be required concerning protection, psycho-social support, health, nutrition, and other issues that emerge and that may need to be addressed due to COVID-19 confinement measures. UNICEF is providing support to the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and is continuing to provide updated evidence on the risk context regarding the re-opening of schools, building on national epidemiological data, as well as emerging global evidence as other countries re-open schools.

Through its continued work with the MoSD and other partners, UNICEF ensured 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 evolution of COVID-19 added to the dramatic decline in oil prices has caused a severe economic slowdown in Oman. The GoO is also implementing a raft of structural reforms and expenditure cuts which has the potential to impact the provision of social services for children. UNICEF is therefore conducting a Fiscal Space Analysis (FSA) to identify potential financing sources for the social sectors that include Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Islamic Finance, PPP/privatization and subsidy reforms. The FSA will offer the government policy options for addressing public finance barriers for children to enable them to have access to quality services and to reach their potential. In addition to the FSA, UNICEF is building the capacity of technical staff in the key ministries engaged in Public Financing for Children (PF4C) with training on the principles, objectives and tools of PF4C. The training will also allow UNICEF to establish partnerships across ministries working on PF4C.

Finally, UNICEF has also started work on a Situation Analysis of Youth and Adolescents. This, along with the Generation Unlimited landscape analysis and investment case, will form the basis for the development of a Generation Unlimited strategy and work plan. The analysis will of course consider the impact of COVID-19 on the situation of young people in Oman.

#### Sudan

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

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reactivated the RCCE sub-committees, communications, social mobilization and community engagement, and social media activities, which reached approximately 7,009,093 people.

Digital monitoring and social media tracking are continuing. Results show more awareness and belief that COVID-19 is spreading faster in Sudan than in the first wave, where there was a denial of the virus's existence.

##### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

Around 30,000 people in COVID-19 high-risk locations were reached with WASH IPC supplies, combined with COVID-19 focused hygiene promotion and provided with basic water supply, sanitation and handwashing stations as required. The supported populations were visitors and staff of isolation/health centres and at-risk rural/urban population. This included 24,678 patients and medical staff (11,647 females) in 15 health and isolation centres in Kassala, Khartoum and Sennar states to be supported with water supply, sanitation and handwashing stations. Similarly, 4,000 people from rural populations (of which 2040 were females) in COVID-19 high-risk areas in North Darfur State provided with extended basic water supply facilities through a rehabilitated water yard.

Additionally, UNICEF provided PPEs for the isolation centres in Khartoum where 515 healthcare facility staff and community health workers were trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

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

On 10 November, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) officially declared the second wave of COVID-19, noting that 81 per cent of the cases are recorded in Khartoum. As such, UNICEF engaged with the FMoH to fulfil the pre-requisites for COVID-19 vaccine deployment by establishing coordination mechanisms and to provide technical assistance to develop and disseminate adjustable SOPs/protocols, trainings, planning and monitoring tools, and advocacy materials. UNICEF hosted a briefing session led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) that was attended by the MoH and the World Health Organization.

UNICEF provided video conference equipment to the FMoH to reduce the need for physical meetings/workshops and to provide the opportunity to a wider range of partners to engage with the ministry in daily meetings and workshops.

A total of 6,312 healthcare staff and community workers were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This includes 100 staff working in primary isolation centres in Khartoum which has the highest number of infections for November.

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

A total of 4,960 individuals (1,623 girls, 1,532 boys, 1,466 women and 339 men) were reached by UNICEF partners related to child protection services. Of these, 1,610 girls, 1,331 boys, 1,421 women and 303 men received psycho-social support, added to 45 women and 36 men were provided with gender-based violence services. A total of 9 girls, as well as 75 unaccompanied and separated boys, were provided reunification services or placed in alternative care, adding to five boys receiving Family and Child Protection Unit services.

UNICEF rolled out the Teacher Preparedness Training Programme (TPTP) to all states, targeting 3,762 teachers from 1,881 schools of basic education.

Cleaning kits for 600 schools were purchased by UNICEF for COVID-19 prevention which is expected to for distribution in early December 2020. Also, with Communication for Development (C4D) colleagues, UNICEF supported the kick-off of the national campaign for enrolment at schools on 17 November with the rollout in all states with COVID-19 messaging for awareness and health measures that will continue until the end of December 2020.

#### Social protection and social sector financing

Financing was secured for a new Ministry of Labor and Social Development (MoLSD) led cash transfer programme “Mother and Child Cash Transfers for the First 1,000 Days of Life” by UNICEF. The programme will initially target 100,000 pregnant women and their children up to two years of age in Kassala and Red Sea states, where many children suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Key factors include increasing poverty and food insecurity resulting from multiple crises including COVID-19. The programme combines cash assistance with knowledge and skills as well as linkages with services related to the first 1,000 days of life including health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

UNICEF also continues to facilitate lessons, learning and knowledge generation by reviewing MoLSD’s social protection response to COVID-19 which included cash, food and hygiene assistance to families. Post-distribution monitoring of UNICEF supported food and hygiene assistance is planned for in December. The results of the reviews are used to inform UNICEF’s future capacity-building support to MoLSD and partners.

### Syria

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF reached over 12.7 million people through RCCE activities and messaging on the prevention of COVID-19 pandemic and access to services. Additionally, some 650,000 people were engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions, such as on community-based dialogues and key influencer engagements; establishment and expansion of community influencers’ networks (such as FBO/ religious platforms, community/natural leaders, adolescent and youth networks, informal networks).

RCCE campaign activities also continued in Al-Hol camp, where 10 volunteers were assigned to conduct outreach activities for 10 days. To date, they reached 213 children and 194 mothers through 22 recreational activities involving messages on handwashing, physical distancing as well as individual consultations and awareness sessions.

Addressing COVID-19 related activities around Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) continued through local NGOs: 364 HHs were visited, and 20 awareness sessions were conducted reaching 150 mothers in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqaa governorates including the camps.

The implementation of the second phase of the UNICEF RCCE plan with the Department of Health (DoH) in Homs started through the efforts of nutrition teams linked to the health centres across the governorate. A total of 73 health workers were trained on RCCE and will be carrying out RCCE activities inside and outside the health centres (through mobile teams) for two months. The activities include awareness sessions of small groups inside the health centres; installation of speakers, and megaphones in the most marginalized areas. This will also be true for crowded markets. In November, the DoH teams in Hama finalized similar RCCE activities.

Through RCCE, UNICEF in Northwest (NW) Syria disseminated 7,901 social media posts that reached 329,100 caregivers. Additionally, some 53,837 people were engaged in the discussions on COVID-19 and received answers on the relevant queries on the pandemic.

Additionally, life skills team in Al-Hassakeh have conducted online awareness sessions and discussion via social media platforms on topics related to COVID-19 pandemic and prevention measures. During the reporting period, 140 sessions have been conducted with the participation of 1,340 young people (45 per cent females).

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



The rehabilitation of WASH facilities at Drikeesh national hospital in Tartous governorate was completed with UNICEF assistance.

Scaling up COVID-19 messaging and RCCE in NW Syria, UNICEF reached 438,622 IDPs in 514 camps, informal settlements, host communities and healthcare facilities in various towns and cities in Idleb and Aleppo. This was conducted through awareness sessions, distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, radio broadcasting, social media, banners and posters to increase awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures. A particular focus was on handwashing with water and soap, physical/social distancing and hygiene practices.

Additional 42,014 family hygiene kits, consumable kits and baby kits were distributed to 196,620 IDPs in 303 camps and informal settlements in Idleb and Aleppo. Moreover, 177,310 IDPs and host population were reached through the distribution/refilling of liquid soap in 134 camps, informal settlements and healthcare facilities.

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

UNICEF supported health and community workers during COVID-19, 645 health workers from NGOs and the Ministry of Health were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) in 22 locations throughout Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh and Deir ez-Zor.

Routine immunizations were carried out by UNICEF which resulted in 39,216 children under one-year-old being vaccinated with routine DTP3 vaccination. The total number of children reached until November is 423,471 which is 66 per cent of the annual target.

Through primary health care (PHC) activities a total of 75,849 free medical consultations were delivered to women and children in Whole of Syria, through fixed points and mobile teams bringing the overall number of PHC consultations to 1,410,542 (78 per cent of the annual target).

Despite the challenges with containment measures for COVID-19, UNICEF continued the provision of nutrition, health care services during the reporting period, reaching 111,385 caregivers of children younger than old years old, with messages on breastfeeding, IYCF and healthy diets through national communication campaigns.

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

UNICEF's supported COVID-19 prevention to ensure the safety for an estimated 3.5 million children and school personnel, reaching 13,000 schools. However, there is a significant concern about the situation in schools as 697 positive cases were registered since the school opening in September, including 350 students. Among the key bottlenecks is the lack of adherence to health protocols and safety measures at schools. Adding to this is the limited resources such as the number of sanitized classrooms, lack of access to water and soaps in some schools.

Alongside the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF Health & Education teams developed a model for reclosing/reopening schools focusing at the ways how to strengthen the adherence to health protocol/safety measures in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus was shed on strengthening monitoring and supervision as well as improving behavioural interventions.

Sustained efforts also continued to ensure that children continue enrolment in schools., As such, UNICEF supported the roll-out of training sessions for administration and health staff, benefitting 461 teachers and administrators (58 per cent females). Furthermore, to ensure sanitation and hygiene safety in schools during COVID-19, UNICEF supported 721,797 children and school personnel (52 per cent girls) with sanitation materials.

UNICEF reached 77,741 people (51 per cent girls and females) with COVID-19 awareness materials such as colouring books and memory games. The awareness materials were developed by UNICEF and distributed in partnership with the WFP in Northeast (NE) Syria.

In NW Syria, education response to COVID-19 covered various activities, such as distance/home-based learning reaching 24,589 girls and boys with Curriculum B. Lessons taught through existing printed materials (textbooks, exercise books, supplementary resources) combined with instructions and monitoring that was shared through WhatsApp. Additionally, 14,539 girls and boys alongside 4,415 parents were provided with awareness-raising messages on the importance of home-based learning.

UNICEF provided remote PSS to 7,356 children, and combined (remote and face-to-face) PSS services to 4,592 parents. Additionally, 124 children benefited from PSS services in the following six governorates: Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra and rural Damascus.

During this period, case management had identified and provided services to 642 new children from IDP and host communities in NW Syria. Community-based PSS sessions have been delivered online or in reduced groups. Through PSS in NW Syria, UNICEF reached 9,203 children and parents/primary caregivers from IDP as well as host communities.

### [Supporting access to social protection and promoting adolescent participation and development](#)

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) activities were conducted widely to disseminate messages about precautionary measures against the pandemic, including sanitizing, physical distancing and the importance of wearing masks. Young people supported the dissemination of the second phase of RCCE awareness messages about COVID-19 through social media platforms and networks. For instance, in coordination with the health section, a group of 50 young people participated in the planning and implementing breast cancer awareness-raising campaign. The sessions were attended by 1,145 young girls and women from vulnerable areas in Aleppo and rural Aleppo which included messages on IYCF and COVID-19 precautionary measures for women.

ADAP and Social Policy teams in Qamishli conducted an initiative for targeting adolescents aged between 13 and 18 years old with life skills and vocational training sessions, which have been supported with cash assistance programme since the beginning of this year. The first 10-day training started on 1st November 2020 with the participation of 15 adolescents with disabilities (40 per cent females) on initial life skills and photography sessions. During the session, the participants received awareness on the prevention measures of COVID-19 and the importance of wearing masks. During the whole training, PPE items were distributed to all the participants.

UNICEF reached an additional 4,630 households in low-income urban areas of Aleppo and Homs governorate with an emergency cash transfer for basic needs, as part of COVID-19 response. This brings the total number of households reached since the beginning of the year to over 30,463 in the governorates of Aleppo, Latakia, rural Damascus and Homs.

### [The State of Palestine](#)

#### [Risk communication and community engagement \(RCCE\)](#)

Three interactive animated songs for children with messages on physical distancing, hand washing, and recreational activities during the lockdown were produced and published on Facebook and YouTube. These songs received over 320,000 views.

The third episode of an animated TV show was produced and published on Facebook. This episode focused on spreading messages related to physical and mental health during the lockdown. It received over 150,000 views.

In partnership with local partners, 50 interactive social media posts were published on Facebook with questions testing people's knowledge and attitudes towards COVID-19. These posts received over 200,000 views and 19,000 engagements.

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

UNICEF delivered 100,000 N95 masks to the Ministry of Health (MoH) (50,000 for the West Bank, 50,000 for the Gaza Strip). These masks will benefit 500 health professionals at quarantine and treatment centres for one month.

Also, UNICEF delivered a set of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) equipment, including ten oxygen analysers (five to the West Bank, five to the Gaza Strip) as well as three pulse oximeters and 19 defibrillators to the West Bank. This equipment will serve 30 patients per month.

#### [Continuity of health care services for women and children](#)

UNICEF delivered 12,000 bottles of ferrous sulphate 125mg/ml oral solution. These bottles will benefit 6,000 children under the age of two for a period of 60 days to treat anaemia.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF delivered 588 Retinol 100,000IU soft gel Chloramphenicol 250mg caps/PAC-100. These supplements will benefit 8,000 children with Vitamin A deficiency for seven months.

Through a local partner, UNICEF provided 1,994 high risk pregnant and lactating women as well as 609 children (50 per cent girls) with access to essential health and nutrition care services. Among them, 465 women received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.

Through a local partner, UNICEF provided treatment for 108 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 53 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Respectively, 14 and 9 per cent were girls.

In the West Bank, UNICEF delivered 3.2 tons of medication including calcium gluconate injections, Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), Retinol 100,000IU, and Retinol 200,000IU to the Ministry of Health (MoH). These drugs will treat children with different malnutrition issues such as anaemia, Vitamin A deficiency among others and will cover the needs of the MoH for six months.

#### [Supporting access to Education, Child Protection and GBV services](#)

Through a local partner, UNICEF provided Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) through distance learning. Thus far, 14,000 adolescents benefited from these trainings.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to operationalize the guidelines for safe school operation protocols through building the capacities of the ministry's staff from different areas in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The trainees included school health teams, supervisors, counsellors, canteen staff, school principals, and teachers. As of 16 November, UNICEF has trained a total of 44,712 staff (59 per cent females) on the guidelines for safe school operation protocols.

With the support of UNICEF, school health committees were established in 190 schools, and committee members were trained on how to develop and implement school-based action plans and initiatives to operationalize safe school protocols. The committees were provided with the required supplies to help them implement their action plans and initiatives.

UNICEF provided 3,484 people in the Gaza Strip, including 2,173 children, with psychosocial and protection services. This included case management, group and individual counselling, life skills education, child-parent interaction, and expressive arts trainings.

In East Jerusalem, UNICEF provided 250 secondary school students (50 per cent girls) with remote remedial education.

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to deliver cash support in the Gaza Strip to 600 families who fell further into poverty during the COVID-19 crises as well as 80 female nursery workers. This will be a one-off payment of NIS 700 (the equivalent of US\$ 200) for each beneficiary household.

## Tunisia

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continues to produce and disseminate communication materials through various communication channels (TV, radio, social media, urban display, and print materials), reaching over 7 million people.

Following UNICEF's training in collaboration with National Observatory for New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), the Tunisian scouts have now started COVID-19 prevention community engagement activities in public spaces nationally, including schools, malls, shops, markets, and public transportation.

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

UNICEF has delivered 42,000 posters on health and safety protocols to adopt with suspected and/or confirmed cases in schools. These were developed by the Ministry of Health and they will be distributed to all 13,500 public schools, day-care centres and kottebs across Tunisia, reaching approximately 2.4 million beneficiaries, including children and staff.

### Supporting access to education

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has revised all curricula and programmes from Grade 1 to upper secondary to adapt them to the new COVID-19 context, taking into consideration that now schools work at 50 per cent of their student capacity. The MoE has started rolling out the new condensed programme starting 8 November in all schools countrywide.

Following a study by the National Statistical Institute and the World Bank revealing 3 out of 5 children from 1,369 households were not able to access online education opportunities during the first wave of COVID-19 lockdown, the MoE has since decided to expand educational TV programs. UNICEF is supporting capacity strengthening to produce TV-based educational material (progress: 60 inspectors trained on scripting for TV-based programs).

With thanks to funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, UNICEF has procured 1,500 sprayers for schools to contribute to their cleaning and disinfection during fall break, to comply with COVID-19 school safety protocols.

### Support access to Child Protection and GBV services

The Ministry of Women, Families and Seniors and UNICEF have organized two key events in the context of the International Day of the Child: the conference "Children's Rights and Sustainable Development Goals: What policies in times of pandemic - COVID-19" planned for 24 November. Also, a webinar called "The Impact of COVID-19 on children in Tunisia" is planned to take place on 26 November. Both events aimed at raising audiences' awareness on the effects that COVID-19 on the realization of children's rights in Tunisia and how partners and UNICEF can better coordinate to enforce policies that can strengthen child protection services on a national scale.

### Social policy and social sector financing

The Ministry of Social Affairs has implemented the first segment of top-up cash transfer for school-aged children to support the back to school, targeting 278,142 children (51 per cent girls). The second part of the top-up for school to the same children is ongoing. The registration for children under five years of age is still in progress.

## Yemen

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

Community volunteers and members of mother-to-mother groups continued communication interventions, reaching 140,701 people through 25,582 house-to-house visits. Also, Imams and Morshydats (female religious leader) continued engagements at social gatherings and other events aimed at sensitizing people on COVID-19 prevention practices and physical distancing guidelines, reaching 63,865 people amongst 780 community gatherings and 670 women's social events. Imams also facilitated sessions at mosques, especially during Friday prayers. About 3.6 million people are reached regularly via 5,000 mosques with messages on how to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19 and seek care for the sick,

Over 3.5 million people were reached by 90 vehicles broadcasting with public address systems, especially in areas with low mass media coverage. Calls to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) hotlines continued with 3,162 people calling in with questions on COVID-19. In contrast, about 3,500 calls were received through radio call-in programmes where health experts answered callers' questions and responded to their concerns on COVID-19.

### 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 by prioritizing IDP locations, IDPs, refugees, returnees and high-risk areas with cholera prevention of densely populated locations, both urban and rural parts of the country. This was facilitated through fuel delivery to 15 cities aimed at the rehabilitation of non-functioning water supply. For example, in Hodeidah, WASH in school rehabilitation was conducted at nine schools, benefitting 4,050 children. The water quality monitoring and the chlorination of water activities are ongoing through the mainstreaming of COVID-19 precautionary actions. The beneficiaries were encouraged to continue with regular personal hygiene practices as well as using chlorinated water.

UNICEF reached 26,477 people with the distribution of basic hygiene kits (BHK) in Amran, Dhamar, Sanaa and Amanat Al Asima ar IDPs sites and host communities.

A total number of 37,975 people were reached by UNICEF with solid waste management, provision of water supplies and installation of latrines and dislodging activities. With details of 5,068 people with supporting the solid waste collection and disposals, provision access through water trucking, and provision of spare parts and maintenance of water supplies system. In Hodeidah, UNICEF reached to 25,277 people with supporting solid waste collections and disposals, installation of family latrines, also reaching 4,900 individuals in Lahej with the operation of the water supply system and water trucking for non-connected areas and IDPs locations.

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

The successful implementation of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) campaign was carried out with UNICEF support in 59 high-risk districts in five governorates in the South of the country. This campaign strictly adhered to COVID-19 precautions with a total of 215,958 (64 per cent of the target) Women of Childbearing Age (WCBA) were vaccinated with tetanus (Td) vaccine.

Additionally, UNICEF was involved with the distribution of hygiene kits to 3,300 families, of which 2,000 live in Internally Displaced People (IDP) centres to target vulnerable and marginalized communities,

UNICEF supported the implementation of the vaccine-derived poliovirus Type 1 (VDPV1) outbreak response campaign in the northern governorate reaching over 3.7 million children aged 0-59-months, accounting for 91 per cent of the overall target. This was conducted in the context of COVID-19 pandemic with the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

Through the integrated outreach with UNICEF coordination, over 63,000 children under one were vaccinated with Penta 3, over 193,000 children under five were reached with integrated management of childhood illness, more than 62,000 women were reached with reproductive health services and over 101,000 children under five reached with Vitamin A supplementation.

UNICEF also led the publication of a document on conducting diphtheria and polio campaigns within the context of COVID-19 which was the first of its kind in the region, contributing to global lessons learnt from the resumption of vaccination activities following the COVID-19 pandemic.

In close coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF has been supporting the efforts in the country toward the introduction of COVID-19 vaccine and to support the MoPHP to complete the Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT). As part of the same agenda, supporting the completion of the COVID-19 vaccine application for submission by 7 December and completion of the supply chain sizing tool to assess the cold chain gap. UNICEF also supported the country to prepare Technical Assistance (TA) plan focused on cold chain, logistics and vaccine management (CCLVM) and Communication for Development (C4D) for the vaccine introduction preparation and implementation.



## [Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services](#)

As part of the school reopening scheme of 2020, UNICEF procured masks and other PPE for 209,000 children as well as 11,105 teachers in Aden. UNICEF Communication and Education sections, alongside UNHCR, distributed 5,000 washable masks and 3,000 comic books to refugee children.

1,210 teachers (396 female) in Sana'a and Sa'ada were trained on safe school protocols in September using the ToT package finalized by the education cluster. Also, a Joint Education Needs Assessment started in Aden, and approval is pending from the Ministry of Education in Sana'a.

With the implementation of the remote modality, 31,011 people had been reached through mental health and psychosocial support services.

As at the end of the reporting period, 350 people (151 females) have completed the online training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and referral for survivors.

## 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

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

[مرض فيروس كورونا \(19-COVID-19\)](#)

CAMPAIGN PAGES

[#MaskUp](#)

[لا تنسوا الكمامة](#)

PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

[Kuwait Fund contributes US\\$4 million supporting UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Syria](#)

[COVID-19 leaves profound impact on children in the Middle East and North Africa](#)

[Millions of children's lives at high risk as Yemen inches towards famine](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

[Impact of COVID-19 on Children in the Middle East and North Africa - Factsheet](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 on Children in the Middle East and North Africa - Report](#)

[Social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis in the MENA/Arab States region](#)

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

[Address by Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA Joint Meeting with Ministers of Health](#)

[Virtual Conference "COVID-19 Pandemic and Children's Rights: From Crisis to Opportunity" On the occasion of World Children's Day](#)

## Funding Overview, 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 socio-economic impacts of the disease. At 22 November, UNICEF has received \$221 million accounting for 62 per cent of the financial requirement. However, the region still urgently needs an additional \$138 million to support governments, communities and children to stop the spread of the virus\* (see table below).

UNICEF MENA would like to express its sincere gratitude for the generous contributions from its public and private partners, such as the Government of Japan, the United Kingdom, UN OCHA, the United States of America, the European Union, the Government of Canada and the Government of Germany. UNICEF MENA also accessed generous flexible contributions received centrally to address immediate funding gaps of critical interventions.

In addition, Tunisia Office received a generous contribution from Germany (KfW) amounting EUR 11,745,454.56 (US\$13,949,489) focusing on Investing towards children's human capital through a sustainable and inclusive social protection system.

Over the period, UNICEF continued to foster collaboration with WHO and UNESCO to promote the continuity of health and nutrition services, and flexibility in the provision of learning opportunities for children respectively. WHO and UNICEF have joined forces to improve collective intelligence on the impact of government measures on epidemiology and needed adjustments or strategic shifts in RCCE response. Robust partnerships with social media continue to prove critical to counter wrong information and promote healthy behaviour, especially among young people.

Country	Requirements	Total Available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Algeria	\$1,405,000	\$3,121,845	\$0	0%
Djibouti	\$7,935,000	\$2,182,946	\$5,752,054	72%
Egypt	\$30,916,000	\$5,830,088	\$25,085,912	81%
Iran	\$17,210,970	\$7,590,285	\$9,620,685	56%
Iraq	\$11,837,000	\$7,242,500	\$4,594,500	39%
Jordan	\$22,709,753	\$20,928,396	\$1,781,357	8%
Lebanon	\$58,902,507	\$23,872,845	\$35,029,661	59%
Libya	\$16,100,000	\$7,824,033	\$8,275,967	51%
Morocco	\$5,070,000	\$4,128,070	\$941,930	19%
Oman	\$360,000	\$147,456	\$212,544	59%
State of Palestine	\$16,065,645	\$13,328,223	\$2,737,422	17%
Sudan	\$24,535,000	\$25,862,752	\$0	0%
Syria	\$30,581,925	\$26,426,310	\$4,155,615	14%
Tunisia	\$8,100,000	\$8,003,018	\$0	0%
Yemen	\$103,257,802	\$63,134,977	\$40,122,825	39%
MENARO	\$1,906,000	\$1,619,811	\$286,189	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$356,892,602</b>	<b>\$221,243,557</b>	<b>\$138,596,660</b>	<b>39%</b>

### Funding Status\*

For information on the funding status of the US\$1.93 billion global UNICEF appeal, visit:  
[www.unicef.org/coronavirus/donors-and-partners](http://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/donors-and-partners)

\* 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 non-COVID-19 purposes. Resources mobilized in excess of the immediate requirement are not reflected here and the funding gap is \$0 and 0 per cent respectively.

Next SitRep: 15 February 2021

Who to contact for further information: Ted Chaiban  
 Regional Director  
 Middle East and North Africa  
 Regional Office  
 Tel: +962 6 5502 401  
 Email: [tchaiban@unicef.org](mailto:tchaiban@unicef.org)

Yannick Brand  
 Regional Emergency Advisor  
 Middle East and North Africa  
 Regional Office  
 Tel: +962 6 5502 400  
 Email: [ybrand@unicef.org](mailto:ybrand@unicef.org)

Juliette Touma  
 Regional Chief of Communications  
 Middle East and North Africa  
 Regional Office  
 Tel: +962 6 5509 624  
 Email: [jtouma@unicef.org](mailto:jtouma@unicef.org)

## Annex: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Programme Response Targets	2020 target*	Total UNICEF results	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	271,490,648	13,323,718
Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	42,923,500	40,586,530	1,285,268
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	1,181,256	169,942
<b>Infection prevention control (IPC)/WASH</b>			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	11,322,774	18,009,901	1,502,499
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	75,125	198,054	18,940
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	19,924	19,349	4,713
<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	11,315	2,194
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	8,413,041	1,024,394
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	3,577,670	2,918,186	414,949
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	665,400	336,039	55,878
<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	5,942,181	384,100
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	31,766	29,200	1,152
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	19,062	13,996	695
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	442,153	456,103	50,065
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	3,434	7,528	1,670
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	306,650	1,303,945	33,952
Number of households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response to COVID-19	174,500	57,027	(13,953) <sup>21</sup>
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	13,177,257	676,340

\*Targets as of 22 November 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Syria has revised their numbers.