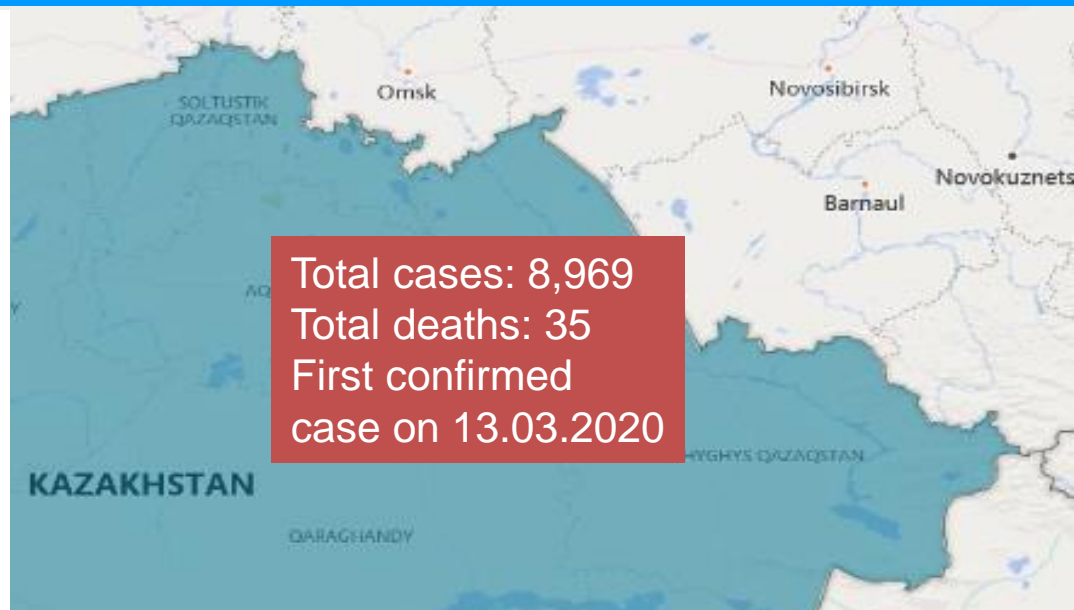


Response to COVID-19: Central Asia



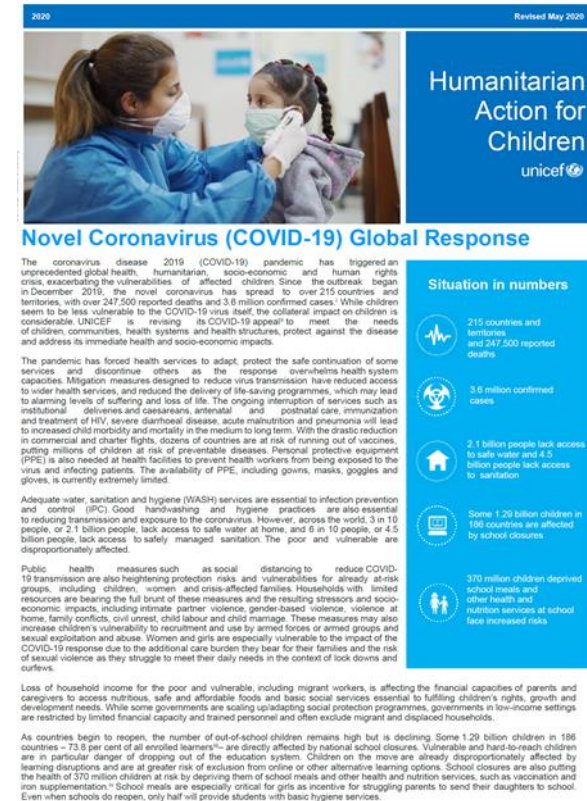
Annmarie Swai
Regional Emergency Advisor
UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Region
May 2020

Covid-19 Situation: Central Asia - 26 May 2020



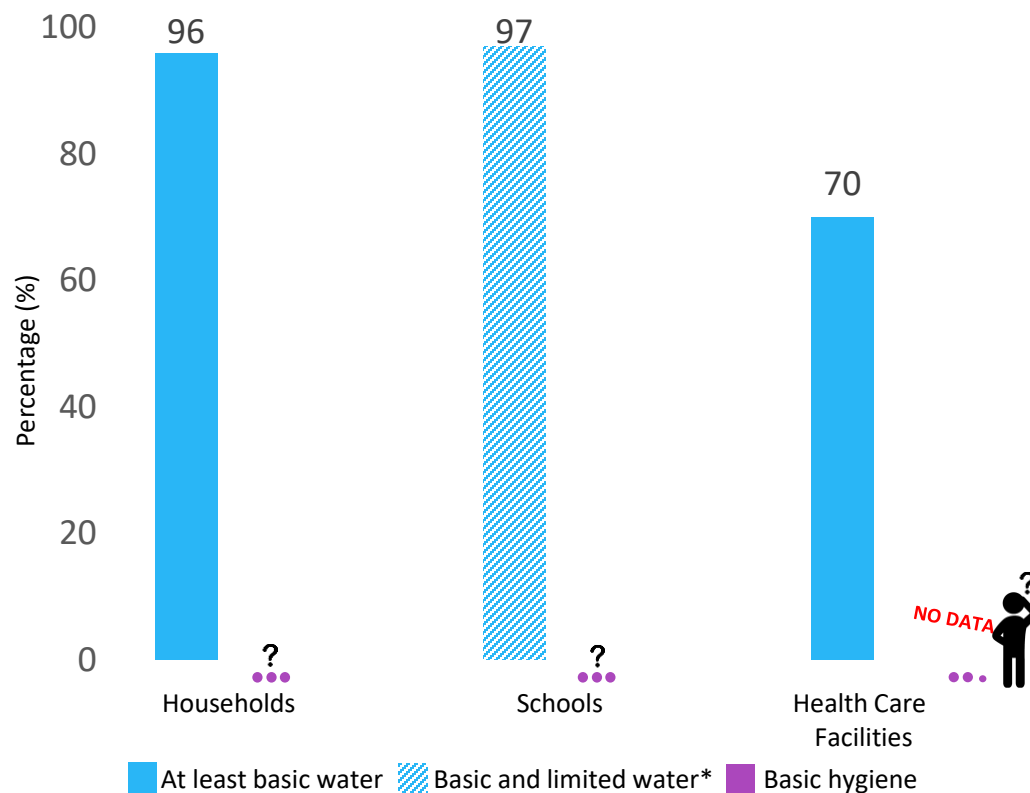
Humanitarian Action (HAC) for COVID-19.

- Protect children, families from immediate health impact, collateral social and economic shocks
- **Aligned with:** WHO COVID-19 SPRP; Country and Government Preparedness and Response Plans
- **Coordination:** UN, national/Intl. partners, IFIs, key donors
- **Strategic Priority Areas:**
 - Strengthen risk communication, community engagement (RCCE)
 - Improve Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC), provide critical medical, WASH supplies
 - Continued access to essential health, nutrition services for women, children, including case management
 - Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection, mental health, PSS, GBV services
 - Data collection, social science research for decision-making



WASH and IPC context in Central Asia

Handwashing and Hygiene practice



Access to basic WASH services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2017 (households), 2016 (Schools)

* Improved facilities only (no data on availability of drinking water)

- Pre COVID -19: No comprehensive data on access to hand hygiene facilities with soap and water for ECAR (JPM Snapshot 2020).

WASH and IPC context in Central Asia

Gaps in Health Care Facilities – *impacting continuation of services*

- **IPC:** supply chain disruptions; application of measures (PPE use); implementation protocols; access to disinfecting agents
- **Water supply:** access to independent, potable water sources (borehole); reliable local networks; water storage reservoirs; hot water supply
- **Sanitation:** separate, sufficient facilities for health workers/patients; waste management

Gaps in Education Facilities – *impacting safe return to school, continuation of education*

- **Waters supply:** access to clean, piped drinking water; water storage facilities.
- **Sanitation:** access to adequate, safe facilities; separate toilets for boys and girls; available soap and water and handwashing stations

Priority WASH/IPC Focus for Central Asia

Handwashing, Hygiene Promotion

- Access to critical supplies (soap, sanitizer, cleaning, disinfection materials), training on use
- Access to safe, appropriate, functional handwashing infrastructure
- Information on risk, prevention, awareness and behaviour change in hygiene practice

WASH & Infection Prevention and Control

- PPE supply; IPC enhancements/protocols (hand hygiene, disinfection, waste disposal, health and safety procedures for staff)
- Improve WASH facilities (water, handwashing, sanitation, waste collection)
- Guidance for safe childcare, school operations (hand/respiratory hygiene, screening, cleaning protocols, staff health and hygiene measures); education on COVID-19 prevention.
- Support continued, sufficient access of water, hygiene services to at risk populations

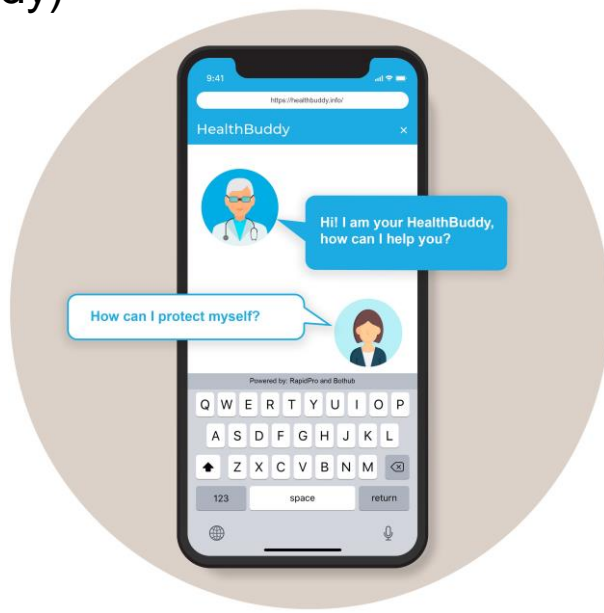
Focus :

- Children, families, young people, communities most risk/disproportionately affected by crisis.
- Institutions (schools, ECD Centres, Primary Healthcare Facilities, alternate care sites etc.)

UNICEF WASH Response: Central Asia Highlights

Handwashing and Hygiene

- Supporting RCCE coordination, implementation
- Contextualizing global-level materials
- Widespread message dissemination, national handwashing campaigns (social media)
- Innovative, interactive applications (U-report, Health Buddy)



USAID unicef

Koronavirusdan (COVID-19)
qorunmaq üçün əllərinizi yumaq barədə

9 suala 9 cavab



Əllərinizi yumaq sizi və yaxınlarınızı qoruya bilər.

UNICEF WASH Response: Central Asia Highlights

IPC, Critical Supplies

- Provision of WASH supplies to communities, health workers, line ministries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
- Provision of PPE to frontline health workers (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).
- Promoting innovation: engaging adolescents through Innovation Lab to produce multi-use masks (Tajikistan)
- Supporting MoE and MoH on application of sanitary protocols in rural schools (Kazakhstan)



UNICEF WASH Response: Central Asia Highlights

Access to WASH services – Tajikistan Example

Issues

Only 48% of schools with water supply systems

Only 1 in 4 schools with water and soap available

66% maternity wards not meeting required WASH standards

Action

Provision of WASH supplies as immediate needs in quarantine facilities

WASH infrastructure rehabilitation, equipment in 18 maternity dept and 1 children hospital ,10 Health Care Facilities at district level (HCFs), 1,500 Primary Health Care Facilities (mainly handwashing stations), and 45 schools.

Nation-wide Public Campaigns on Hygiene Promotion, Social Behavior Change

Achievements

Provided Hygiene items to 32 quarantine facilities across the country (12,604 people).

Provided WASH emergency supplies to 2,070 disaster-affected people (incl. 1,216 children)

Rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in 17 maternity departments (65,000 women, new borns, health staff)

Rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in 45 schools (45,000 children and staff).

Plans to scale up: WASH Rapid Needs Assessment in HCF and Schools across the country in partnership with WASH Donor Coordination Council Members

Looking Forward: Challenges and Opportunities

- Limitations in WASH (services, capacities) to address significant needs (pre and during COVID)
- Lack of comprehensive data on WASH situation, needed to make investment case
- Lower prioritization, investment in WASH (infrastructure), IPC
- Knowledge gaps in prevention, control and safety measures in institutions and facilities.
- Limited funding opportunities
- Investment in capacities in light of emerging needs, gaps (UNICEF, government)
- Emerging funding opportunities, priorities
- Innovation, scalable approaches (interactive tools, virtual engagement)
- Emerging partnerships to accelerate, coordinate, streamline response
- Second International Conference on Water Decade in Dushanbe (postponed for now)

Areas for Partnership and Investment

- Capacity enhancement (supplies, training) in IPC enhancements/protocols
- Rehabilitation of WATSAN facilities (entry point: PHCs, schools)
- Pilot innovative, sustainable, low-cost technology (rural community, post COVID economy)
- Risk communication and promotion of behavioral change (water and sanitation use, hygiene)
- Assessments, studies, knowledge generation



Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Children

- Widespread impacts on children
 - School closures and limited availability of remote learning
 - Overburdened health systems
 - Psychosocial impacts and less access to social care workforce
- Estimated 44% increase in (monetary) child poverty across ECA
 - Reliance on extractive industries and remittances, high rates of informality, low coverage and adequacy of social protection => higher risk and less resilience
- Shrinking fiscal space
 - Expenditures on child-focused social services already low; out-of-pocket expenditures on health very high in much of the region
 - Lessons from the GFC – how to maintain social services in times of spending contraction?

UNICEF Response

- Conducting socioeconomic analysis in all countries in ECA, in partnership with governments, UN family, IFIs
- Supporting governments to expand coverage and adequacy and improve delivery of social protection
- Going forward, primary areas for support:
 - Expanding social protection – cash and non-cash
 - Advocacy for ringfencing spending on child-focused sectors



UNICEF partnership with IFIs and ADB

Mapping of IFIs, key activities and collaboration in ECA



Partnerships with other IFIs in ECA and globally

World Bank – collaboration through **Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF)** launched to provide additional source of financing to world's poorest countries when they face cross-border, large-scale outbreaks. PEF funds (US\$ 195 million as of April 2020) are used to finance health emergency response efforts during COVID-19: health systems support, supplies, risk communications, and WASH activities.

IsDB - Lives and Livelihood Fund (LLF). The LLF has an important role to play in curtailing the impact of COVID-19. The LLF investments focuses on primary healthcare system strengthening, infectious disease control and WASH, areas which are critical for an effective response to the disease.

Collaboration with Asian development Bank

Project (grant) - **“Integrated Maternal and Child Health and Behavioral Change Communication”**, US\$ 3.2 million - Tajikistan

First ADB grant implemented in ECA and first grant signed between ADB and UNICEF in framework of new MoU (October 2018)

The grant aims to **a)** improve integrated delivery of high quality maternal and childcare health services in 3 districts (e.g. assisting in revising and developing MCH policies and SOPs), **b)** improve knowledge on maternal and child seeking behaviors (e.g. social and community mobilization).

As part of the COVID -19 Response, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan each received US\$200 from ABD for PPE.



THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact
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for every child