



COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Landmark building in Nur-Sultan - Kazakhstan Temir Zholy Tower lit up UN blue in support of the UN75 and UN Day campaign during the lockdown measures

KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSING THE SURGE OF COVID-19

NUR-SULTAN - Over the past three weeks, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the country. The Government has strengthened lockdown measures in six regions (East Kazakhstan, Akmola, Kostanai, West Kazakhstan, Pavlodar and Almaty regions) and has restricted the crossing of the state border. According to Minister of Healthcare Alexey Tsoi, the growth rate stands at 0.4% and the reproductive rate is 1%. The rate of hospital bed occupancy stands at 22% and intensive care - 18%.

Prime Minister Mamin instructed the cabinet to increase the work efficiency of special groups who monitor people and companies to ensure compliance with the lockdown measures. The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry and the Ministry of Healthcare are set tasks to develop and implement programs for tracking contact persons, patients and monitoring compliance with sanitary requirements. As reported, starting this week persons with asymptomatic COVID-19 will be monitored through a new mobile application. The app envisages a QR code, which will allow entering public places, and tracking the users by GPS location.

On 27 October, it was reported that Kazakhstan's airlines are prohibited from boarding foreign citizens heading to Kazakhstan without administering a COVID-19 PCR test result. Earlier this month, Kazakhstan reduced the number of international flights to prevent the rise of COVID-19 cases. International air travel from Kazakhstan is now open with Belarus, Egypt, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the UAE, and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan is also extending the suspension of the visa-free regime for foreign citizens until May 2021. Foreign citizens, who have a residence permit, and their family members as well as foreigners, who are family members of Kazakh citizens, can enter Kazakhstan no more than once in 90 days (previously it was 30 days).

HIGHLIGHTS

STRONGER UN BETTER WORLD

Throughout its 75 years of existence, the UN has been at the forefront in addressing most burning development challenges of the day facing humanity and the planet. In commemoration of the UN's 75th anniversary, UN Day events were held online with participation of the diplomatic corps, NGOs, business community, media and culture. Kazakhstan has also joined the campaign: the landmark buildings in Nursultan Baiterek monument and Railway company tower, and in Almaty - Kazakhstan Hotel, Republic Palace were lit up blue in support of the UN Day. **More on risk communications on page 3.**



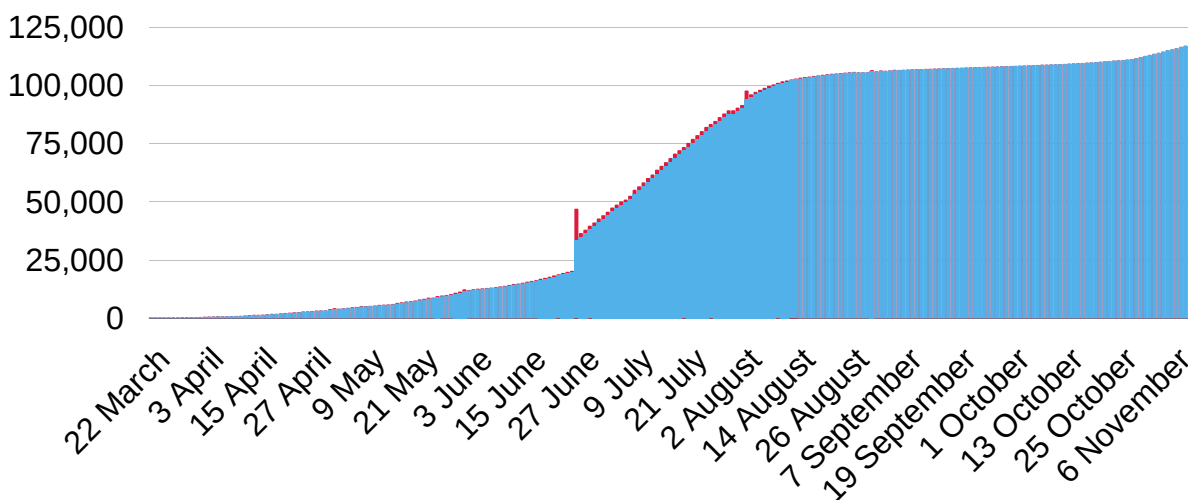
YOUTH FRIENDLY HEALTH CENTERS DEVELOPING IN KAZAKHSTAN

For the first time in the history of Kazakhstan Youth Friendly Health Centers have been included in the Ministry of Healthcare list of healthcare institutions. This is the outcome of the UNFPA and Ministry of Healthcare comprehensive project aimed at institutionalizing an integrated youth-friendly health service system. Following the development of a Strategy for the sustainable development of Youth Health Centers, the project developed several clinical protocols, algorithms and training packages. So far 17 regional Youth Health Centers have been equipped, a [policy paper](#) disseminated and visits to several centers organized to strengthen their capacity and attract young people to visit or contact them also during the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). **More on emergency health response on page 2.**



UN SUPPORTING MIGRANTS DURING THE LOCKDOWN

IOM has assisted more than 4,619 migrants and victims of trafficking during the lockdown. During October 2020 IOM has organized the return over 500 Tajik migrants who had been stranded due to COVID-19 restrictions and could not leave the territory of Kazakhstan. IOM is also contributing to research on understanding the supply of digital financial transfers and financial services in the corridor and the behavioural aspects of remittance transfers and use, and the decision-making process for how to send/receive and use remittances among senders and recipients in the context of COVID-19. **More on socio-economic response on page 2.**



NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES		AS OF 12:00 09.11.2020
CONFIRMED	116772	
RECOVERED	107843	
MORTALITY	1857	
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,59%	

NUMBER OF COVID-19 PNEUMONIA CASES		AS OF 12:00 09.11.2020
CONFIRMED	39104	
RECOVERED	29182	
MORTALITY	409	
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,04%	

REPORTED CASES BY DATE **KEY SOURCES**

Number of cases (blue line) • www.coronavirus2020.kz
 Increase per day (red line) • www.anti-corona.kz



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- UNDP and the Astana Civil Service Hub organized an online event to discuss key factors for overcoming the crisis and review the impact of the COVID-19 on the transformation of public administration in various countries of the world;
- The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan in collaboration with UNDP and the Astana Civil Service Hub held the international online conference on innovative solutions in e-government development. The event was attended by more than 100 representatives of government agencies and organizations in e-government development, as well as international organizations, and academia;
- More than 500 experts, academics and government representatives from 17 countries discussed advanced approaches for responding to the pandemic at the online webinar "Rapid Response to COVID-19 Crisis: Whole-of-country Approach to Unlocking and Recovery", organized by UNDP and the Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) in collaboration with the global consulting company Whiteshield Partners;
- The UNDP-ADB joint working meeting discussed policy briefs on the global initiatives for COVID-waste treatment models and applications of different disinfection techniques. The project experts developed methodological instructions for managing medical wastes in the phthisiopulmonology center in Nur-Sultan;
- UNDP in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, and the RSE "Information and Analytical Center for Environmental Protection initiated a process to amend the existing subsection "medical waste" in the system of the State cadastre of medical wastes;
- UNICEF and the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan supported the virtual meeting of the National Human Rights Commissioner of Kazakhstan to discuss the progress and further actions to protect children affected by migration;
- UNICEF's NGO partner "Sana Sezim" supported 343 migrants, including 30 women, from Tajikistan, who were stuck on the border of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Turkestan region. They were provided with counseling, as well as with water supply, hygiene kits and PPEs.
- UNFPA developed a premarital course for couples wanting to marry in Mosques to help build relationships based on mutual respect, investing in family planning and quality maternal health. It is seen as one of the measures to prevent gender-based violence, given the increase in cases during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown in Kazakhstan;
- UNFPA conducted online trainings on valeology for 100 teachers from colleges and schools from Almaty and Nur-Sultan cities, with strengthened components on sexual and reproductive health and one topic specifically dedicated to prevention measures against COVID-19;
- UNESCO organized an advocacy event "Youth for Sendai 7" on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020. More than 150 participants from Central Asia learned about youth's contribution to COVID-19 response actions in Central and South-East Asia, notably through their involvement in disaster risk reduction activities at local and regional level;
- UNESCO started its second round of online training on Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development Using Distance Learning Technologies for teachers and teacher trainers from pre- and in-service teacher training institutions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE

- WHO Regional Office for Europe conducted a webinar on COVAX mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of eventual COVID-19 vaccines. WHO Kazakhstan discussed participation of Kazakhstan in the COVAX mechanism with the MFA;
- WHO held the webinars on "Reuse of personal protective equipment", "Criteria for release from isolation of COVID-19 patients" for medical and healthcare professionals;
- UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank participated in the first webinar on the safe reopening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the webinars is to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, as well as to ensure the safe operation of schools in the context of COVID19;
- WHO Europe Technical Officer for Laboratory Issues, Biosafety and Biosafety Dr Joanna Zwetyenga held five-days training on laboratory quality management aimed at building the capacity and competence of laboratory staff;
- WHO developing the assessment tool of adherence to national practices, guidance and reporting related to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) during COVID -19;
- WHO continues the implementation of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Project aimed at mitigation of COVID-19 response measures on maternal, newborn, children and adolescent's health services. Spot checks have been performed to 3 regions for selected health care facilities, including primary and secondary level of care;
- The final cycle of the 5-week training on Immunization during COVID-19 pandemic, Vaccine Safety and Vaccination Contraindications was supported by UNICEF and USAID for 400 health workers. Basics of immunization, analysis of the clinical vaccination cases, recommendations for routine immunization during COVID-19 pandemic and practical advice on working with vaccines were covered during the webinars;
- UNICEF with USAID's support facilitated the training of trainers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessment in health facilities. The tool was introduced to 20 experts from Mother and Child Health Facilities in Kazakhstan;
- For preventing emotional burnout during COVID-19 online sessions on supervision of social and healthcare workers have been conducted by the national UNICEF experts with the support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The Module on Supervision, with an adjusted content to COVID-19, is being prepared for further distribution among the partners across Kazakhstan;
- UNICEF conducted 18 webinars on distance psychological support to children and families for 4,510 online participants from all regions of Kazakhstan. These capacity building activities and over 15 types of job aids provided have been resulted in over 335,000 children, adolescents and parents/families reached by online activities of school psychologists. The special website continues to provide online counselling sessions.

SPOTLIGHT: FLOD SERVICES LAUNCHED



IOM has started providing health services for the UN staff - FLOD (First Line of Defence), which is a new initiative of IOM to support UN staff and their dependents to have 24/7 access to high-quality health care. IOM Kazakhstan is implementing FLOD project to serve beneficiaries in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and Ukraine (for certain services) by providing telehealth and in-clinic consultations.

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Hotline 8.800.080.00.06 (for Kazakhstan)

COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPLIES

- WHO continues to coordinate and support the procurement of supplies with UN agencies in line with the consolidated procurement list at the MFA. Additional procurement of COVID-19 critical supply for response is envisaged for the amount of USD 519,000.
- WHO supporting the renovation the Emergency Operations Centre within the National Center for Public Health, through the development of its video conferencing system;
- WHO organizing the shipment of EQA panels for SARS-CoV-2 for 47 subnational laboratories involved in SARS-CoV-2 testing;
- WHO organizing logistical arrangements for shipment of immunological diagnostic tests to the country for the study.





UN RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- UN Country Team held online campaign on the International Day of the Girl, issued [joint statement](#), calling to end violence against girls and eliminate gender stereotypes in education, career and other fields. UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO supported the campaign with different visual materials. UNFPA, in partnership with UNFPA's spokesperson Kaliya and [The Steppe](#), re-launched an updated version of the project "Her Future". 101 girls with special needs took part in the #GirlsCreArt2020 project by UNESCO, which is an online course designed to empower girls with special needs in creative industries of Central Asia. The statement and campaign received wide media coverage;
- WHO developed a series of infographics on safe education in schools for children of primary and secondary school age;
- A modified version of the [COVID-19 mobile app Health Buddy+](#) is now available throughout the WHO European region;
- IOM organized the regional [online media training](#) on counter trafficking. The training consisted of educational sessions, where the journalists got acquainted with the terminology, relevance of the issue, and how the pandemic affected human trafficking;
- IOM facilitated the first regional [semi-online event](#) for more than 100 participants on data collection of vulnerable migrants in Central Asia and Russia. The Displacement Tracking Matrix gathers and analyzes data to distribute critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance;
- UNICEF promoted cyber-security and tips for parents and children to combat cyber-bullying via a social media campaign;
- The Ministry of Healthcare endorsed five [UNFPA-produced video materials](#) for parents on how to talk with adolescents on sexual and reproductive health issues, as well as five UNFPA-developed additional brochures for adolescents on: Bullying, Relations, Abuse, STI and the importance of Youth Health Centers;
- During Media and Information Literacy Week UNESCO organized 9 online events, attended by 450 participants;
- UNESCO organized its third webinar in its series within Central Asian ICT in Education Symposium on Quality OER Contents for Skills Development in Rural and Remote Areas. 114 participants attended the webinar, including education policymakers and other education stakeholders from Central Asian countries and beyond. The webinar featured different country experiences on ensuring quality digital content in rural areas;
- UNESCO organized a #ResiliArt Debate titled "Cinema Heritage of Central Asia: Challenges of Conservation and Promotion";
- UNESCO finalized the "My ECO-footprint" youth eco-marathon. During the 90-day online marathon, more than 1,300 youngsters across Kazakhstan have gained new knowledge, skills and values to lead sustainable lifestyles.



ARTICLES, VIDEOS AND INTERVIEWS

- Op-Ed by UNDP Resident Representative Yakup Beris: [UN75: Stronger UN, Better World](#);
- Video clip dedicated to the UN Day: piano cover by Yernar Nurtazin;
- [Interview](#) of the Head of the WHO Country office Dr Caroline Clarinval - "COVID-19 Reveals Critical Importance of Addressing Mental Health Problems in Society";
- WHO web story on sexual and reproductive health services in Kazakhstan - ["On the path to better sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents in Kazakhstan"](#);
- UNICEF human-interest story about the experience of psychologist giving online consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- UNICEF human-interest story about the offline education at multi-graded rural remote schools during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- UNDP human interest stories related to COVID-19 response: [Socially disadvantaged find helping hand of apprenticeship](#);
- [Special interview with Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub, for Khabar 24](#).

AFGHAN STUDENTS CONTINUE STUDIES IN KAZAKHSTAN



Jamila Bahrami, 27, from Ghazni province in Afghanistan, is a recipient of a European Union-funded scholarship for Afghan women to acquire skills and education in higher education institutions of Central Asia. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the students have continued their studies online. Jamila will graduate in July 2021. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her university life with students from different countries. This cross-border initiative, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, aims to provide educational opportunities for Afghan women, who face disproportionate barriers to education and employment compared to their men counterparts back home.

SAFETY VIDEOS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

To promote further the COVID-19 prevention and safety instructions, UNICEF published a series of children video-diaries showcasing how children with different needs cope with COVID-19 quarantine, distance learning and pandemic. UNICEF has also added sign language to videos with essential COVID-19 preventive measures and started their release on social media: [Breastfeeding during COVID-19](#); [Hand-washing during COVID-19](#).



UN IN KAZAKHSTAN MEDIA COVERAGE

TOTAL REACH 13 MLN
ENGAGEMENT 563K



JOIN THE SURVEY



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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