



COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



WHO organized shipment of more than 8 tons of EU-funded medical supplies to Kazakhstan's medical facilities

NEW SURGE OF COVID-19 CASES: VACCINATION STARTED IN KAZAKHSTAN

NUR-SULTAN – Since December 2020 the number of COVID-19 cases in Kazakhstan increased 1.4 fold and the regions took stricter measures to curb the spread of the pandemic, but the number of severe cases has declined. Three regions are currently in the red zone – Nur-Sultan city and Akmola, Pavlodar regions. Four regions are currently in the yellow zone – West Kazakhstan, Atyrau, Kostanai, North Kazakhstan regions. All other regions remain in the green zone. In Nur-Sultan, restrictions were eased recently. Cafes and restaurants were allowed to work until midnight. Previously, they closed at 8 p.m. Shopping malls work all days of the week, except Sundays, and fitness centers resumed their work on weekends.

Meanwhile, from 1 February mass vaccination campaign with Russia's Sputnik V vaccine started in Kazakhstan, as the officials repeatedly say the vaccination is the only way to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of coronavirus infection. The vaccination is voluntary and free for Kazakh citizens.

As reported by the Ministry of Health, up to 60% of the population needs to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, also known as population immunity. The Kazakh government and the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs are developing a mobile application called Ashyq (Open) that will require citizens to scan a QR code before entering the businesses whose work was restricted, which will include cinemas, spas, and fitness centers. The scan will show a person's risk rating based on the government data and there are four such ratings – red, yellow, blue, and green. The project will be launched in pilot mode in Almaty, Nur-Sultan, and Karaganda.

EMPOWERING YOUTH IN CENTRAL ASIA



UNESCO launched CAYSPACE digital educational platform, which offers free online trainings in 10 professional fields to youth in Central Asia. CAYSPACE offers new opportunities of affordable education to improve youngsters' knowledge and skills that contribute to successful self-actualization, employment, civic participation and peacebuilding. Portal presents a wide range of free courses, opportunities to learn the 6 official UN languages, develop projects, network with partners and make new friends and material footprint.

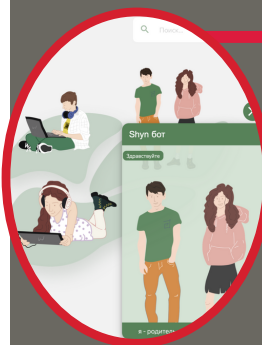
More on risk communications on page 3.

HIGHLIGHTS

UN TO ACCELERATE DIGITALIZATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

UNDP and the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan signed a Statement of Intent to cooperate in the areas of digitalization, public service delivery and innovation. UNDP provides support in attracting leading international experts in digitalization and plans to allocate a financial grant in the amount of USD 200,000 for the Reengineering and Digital Transformation Center. The cooperation is expected to accelerate digital transformation in Kazakhstan. In particular, the parties will work to improve access of citizens and businesses to digital public services, implement digital solutions in the area of social protection, develop business packages for investors to provide fast internet connectivity in remote villages, and train IT personnel of central state bodies to support the digital transformation in the public sector.

More on socio-economic response on page 2.



SHYN APP LAUNCHED

UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Health launched SHYN (truth) - a website, an app and a chatbox on young people's sexual and reproductive health, as part of a comprehensive support to youth-friendly health services. In addition, UNFPA developed an online certified training course for Y-Peers including a "self-help" guide providing psychological counselling during COVID-19 with a focus on family planning, unintended pregnancy, domestic violence, etc.

More on emergency health response on page 2.

OPENWHO PLATFORM TO ENHANCE CAPACITY

WHO invites medical institutions, healthcare workers and anyone who wants to take a free online training on the interactive web platform OpenWHO and receive a certificate. OpenWHO is the first WHO platform to host unlimited users during health emergencies. With a dynamic interface, accessible through your computer and mobile device, OpenWHO offers off-line downloads, peer discussion boards and live briefings from ongoing health emergencies.

More on emergency health response on page 2.



NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES PCR+	AS OF 12:00 09.02.2021
CONFIRMED	197033
RECOVERED	178044
MORTALITY	2540
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,28%

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES PCR-	AS OF 12:00 09.02.2021
CONFIRMED	43318
RECOVERED	37730
MORTALITY	584
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,34%



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- UNDP launched [ECO-DAMU programme](#), which aims to support SMEs contributing to preservation of ecosystems. The programme allocates loans that help businesses sustain in times of COVID-19 crisis;
- UNICEF in partnership with NGO "Korgau" provided hygiene kits to 200 families in difficult life situation. Families continued to receive psycho-social counselling (online and face-to-face). To date, 320 women, mainly victims of domestic violence, were provided with the psycho-social support;
- UNICEF prepared a Policy Brief on COVID-19 impact on children;
- UNICEF prepared brochures for parents on positive parenting skills during COVID-19, for general public with life-saving information, for children in difficult life situation and for the victims of violence;
- UNICEF trained 20 specialists of CSOs and Youth Resource Centres from 6 regions to hold parenting sessions including in rural locations. Trained specialists have started first online meetings with parental groups;
- UNICEF continued to provide services to children affected by migration, that include documenting and phyco-social support. To date, 128 children affected by migration received services in Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent and Turkestan regions. UNICEF continues to increase capacity of specialists on case-management and online teleworking in the context of COVID-19.
- UNICEF conducted 8 webinars for 463 online participants and additional 1,500 views for these webinars' recordings via Mental Health YouTube channel. 9 video sessions on mental health promotion, prevention of cyberbullying, stress and crisis and supporting children during distance learning for adolescents and parents in both Kazakh and Russian language were placed at Mental Health YouTube channel.
- UNFPA completed a comprehensive survey on older persons in Kazakhstan and supported the measurement of the Active Ageing Index for the first time in Kazakhstan. Training was also provided to staff of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- IOM conducted a humanitarian operation to assist 19 Uzbek migrants and 70 Kyrgyz migrants in their return and reintegration;
- IOM provided integration assistance to 50 internal vulnerable migrants by obtaining new professions and stabilizing their permanent earnings;
- On 27 January 2021, IOM and UNHCR organized [the Ministerial Conference of the Almaty Process](#) to discuss solutions to regional challenges posed by the complex dynamics of refugee protection and migration in Central Asia, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Almaty Process brought together high-level officials of member states and observers to discuss results of joint work achieved so far and future activities to support migrants and refugees in the region.



HOW TO COPE WITH STRESS?



UNFPA released a self-help guide on how to handle stress during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, including such topics as domestic violence, alcohol abuse, family planning etc. Using the self-help method described in this booklet will help married and partnering couples recognize the signs of conflict and find ways to resolve them.

Click on the picture to find out more.



EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE

- UNICEF's partner "KAMEDA" Public Fund conducted an external assessment to collect Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH data in 7 perinatal centers and 7 children's hospitals in Turkestan, East Kazakhstan and Almaty oblasts, Shymkent and Almaty cities. The key findings were presented to the staff, management and authorities at the local level across all five pilot regions;
- WHO and UNICEF developed [recommendations for schools on COVID-19 prevention](#) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health;
- WHO advocates for [contact tracing and shares means of stopping the spread of COVID-19 by participating in contact tracing](#);
- WHO shared [new courses on COVID-19 vaccines](#) inviting medical organizations and healthcare professionals to take a free online training and receive a certificate on #OpenWHO interactive web platform. 7 most popular courses are translated to Kazakh language;
- Starting 1 February 2021, WHO together with national specialists organizing a series of webinars and masterclasses on COVID-19 case management that will be running until mid-April.
- WHO held a workshop to support country capacity for physical activity promotion in different ways (walking, cycling, sports and outdoor activities) and in different conditions (at work, at home, at school and on the street). All these forms of physical activity can provide health benefits. According to the organizers, such interregional training events in the future will contribute to building national capacity in the development of policy measures to increase the level of physical activity and surveillance of physical activity, establishing cooperation to develop information bulletins on physical activity for each country;
- WHO together with National Reference Laboratory coordinated External Quality Assessment (EQA) for SARS-CoV-2 for 47 laboratories involved in SARS-CoV-2 testing across Kazakhstan and all 47 laboratories have submitted their results;
- UNFPA prepared a report "Socio-economic determinants of abortions in Kazakhstan", which will be used for further UNFPA advocacy and policy dialogue on promotion of free and subsidizing the provision of modern contraceptives to vulnerable groups of population.



COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPLIES

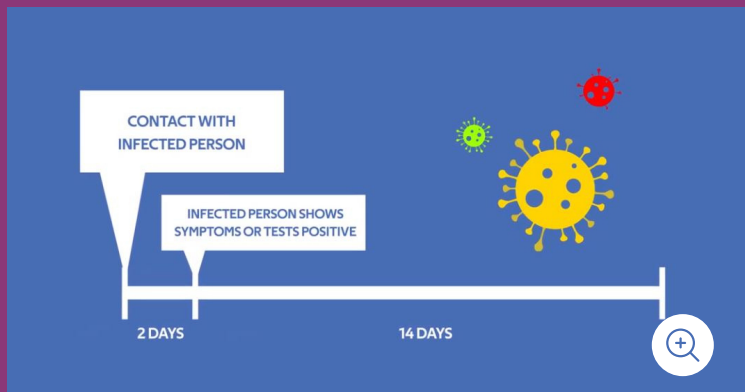
- 26 January 2021 [WHO Kazakhstan organized shipment of more than 8 tons of medical supplies with medical masks, gowns and products for laboratory tests sent to SK Pharmacia for further distribution to medical organizations in the country.](#) The supplies were provided under the European Union's EUR 3 million program to help Central European countries fight the pandemic. This cargo is part of a joint WHO and EU delivery plan to support national health authorities in responding to COVID-19.



- In December 2020 and January 2021 WHO Kazakhstan with the support of WHO Regional Office for Europe has procured equipment for laboratories involved in SARS-CoV-2 testing for 23 laboratories across Kazakhstan;
- With the EU's financial support, [UNICEF has supplied 2,000 pulse oximeters and over 300,000 ampules of dexamethasone to the Kazakhstan's healthcare facilities. Distribution is planned to be finalised by the end of February 2021.](#)



UN RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- WHO produced [video on COVID-19 contact tracing](#);
- WHO and UNICEF promoted a series of infographics with recommendations and COVID-19 life-saving messages for children, parents and teachers across social media channels;
- From 29 January “Balapan” TV channel for kids started to broadcast 4 UNICEF videos with COVID-19 preventive measures for school children. The broadcasting will continue till 31 May;
- UNICEF conducted a 2-day online training for 45 media representatives, NGOs and local akimats to strengthen capacity on the approaches to change negative social norms and raising awareness on rights of children affected by migration, as well as ethical reporting on children and adolescent issues in media;
- WHO conducted information campaign dedicated to [Cervical Cancer Awareness Month](#);
- UNFPA prepared a [trainers' guide](#) on the “Engaged fatherhood” training and a series of thematic brochures covering topics of men’s reproductive health; [domestic violence](#); [family planning](#), ways to [support a pregnant wife](#) etc.;
- UNFPA finalized a full training package including COVID-19-related content on family values, reproductive health, gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence and early marriages for introduction in Madrasas;
- UNFPA prepared video for people with disabilities in [Russian](#) and [Kazakh](#) during the 16 days of activism on gender-based violence. A basic package of [materials for persons with disabilities](#) containing such topics as maternal and reproductive health, reproductive rights, family planning and prevention of unintended pregnancies was developed, including in Braille, sign language and audio disks. These materials were distributed around the facilities where people with disabilities may access them, such as libraries, specialist centres etc.;
- UNESCO conducted [discussion](#) for 30 experts, government representatives and education stakeholders from the three target countries in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on the current status of ICT in education and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education;
- UNESCO conducted [#BeTolerant2020](#) online campaign, which included creative social video experiments and sketches to promote tolerance and intercultural dialogue in Central Asia;
- UNESCO conducted [Sub-Regional Online Meeting](#) for Promotion of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to raise the awareness of the competent authorities in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus and other interested parties about the benefits of the 2005 Convention for the support and development of cultural and creative industries for sustainable development.

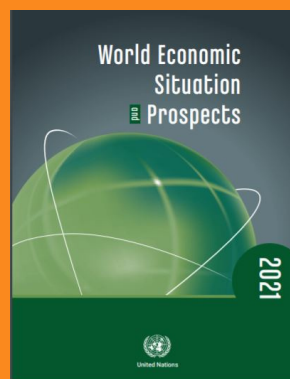


ARTICLES, VIDEOS AND INTERVIEWS



- [Interview by UN Resident Coordinator Michaela Friberg-Storey: “The Lost Year: Is There Light at the End of Tunnel?” for Kazakh TV channel](#);
- [As part of the awareness-raising activities, WHO Country Representative Dr Caroline Clarinval participated in the #Baryslive TV programme of the Barys Hockey Club. Dr Clarinval emphasized that “It is essential to remember COVID-19 prevention measures, such as maintaining physical distance, respiratory etiquette, wearing a mask where recommended by national health authorities and taking care of your physical and mental health”.](#)
- [Op-Ed by UNDP Resident Representative Yakup Beris: ‘Human progress at the precipice’](#);
- [Interview with UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Vitalie Vremis: ‘Anthropocene – limitations or opportunities?’](#);

USEFUL INFORMATION



- [World Economic Situation Prospects Report 2021](#);
- [World Migration Report 2020](#);
- [UNDP’s Human Development Report](#), which argues that unless humans release their grip on nature, the crisis like COVID-19 pandemic won’t be the last. The new report includes a new experimental index on human progress that takes into account countries’ carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint.

UN IN KAZAKHSTAN MEDIA COVERAGE

TOTAL REACH 9 MLN
 ENGAGEMENT 344K



SUBSCRIBE



@UNINKAZAKHSTAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Ms Elnara Bainazarova
 Press and Communication Officer
 UN Resident Coordinator Office for Kazakhstan

14, Azerbaijan Mambetov st.
 010000 Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
 e-mail: elnara.bainazarova@un.org