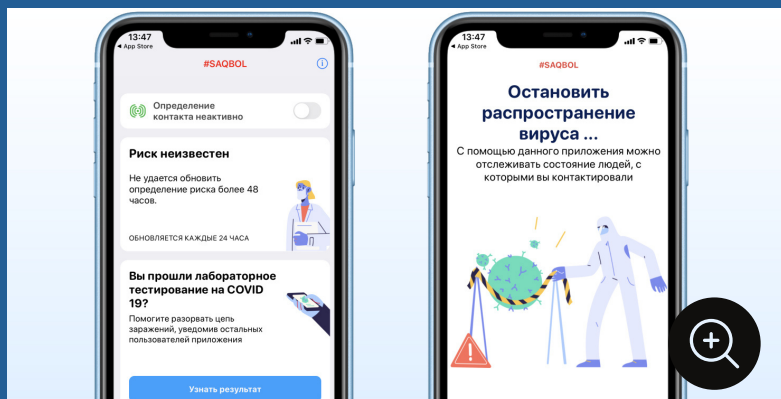




COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Kazakhstan launched "Saqbol" mobile app in order to control the spread of COVID-19 and timely localize the infection spots

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN MIGHT BE REINTRODUCED IN MID-DECEMBER 2020

NUR-SULTAN – Kazakhstan is preparing for different scenarios of further COVID-19 cases surge. On 7 October, Health Minister Alexey Tsoy named three scenarios of the situation development. In the pessimistic scenario, with only 60% of the mask regime provided, the number of registered cases in October-December 2020 forecasted around 190K people. 65K people will need hospitalization. In this case, the lockdown might be reintroduced in mid-December. Tsoy noted that the capacity of PCR testing was increased to 40,000 a day and has the potential to reach 63,000 a day. All measures will allow tackling the possible second COVID-19 wave and seasonal diseases.

The country continues to maintain all lockdown restrictions, including distance learning and quarantine on weekends to limit gatherings of citizens in public places. The number of people allowed in cafes and outdoor dining facilities, which can now work on weekends as well, was increased from 30 to 50. Entertainment facilities remain closed. Earlier Kazakhstan resumed flights with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Germany, South Korea, Turkey, the Netherlands, the UAE and Egypt. From 6 October new regulations were introduced: flights frequency decreased, arriving passengers must also present a negative COVID-19 test result valid for three days prior to arrival, otherwise pass it in Kazakhstan within 48 hours of their arrival or spend two weeks in self-isolation.

Addressing the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted the need to build a strong global health system by upgrading national health institutions through timely and coordinated support from developed countries and UN agencies. Among proposals are the ideas of creating a network of Regional Centers for Disease Control and Biosafety under the UN auspices on the territory of Kazakhstan and establishing the International Agency for Biological Safety.

HIGHLIGHTS

AT-RISK YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

UNDP provided employment opportunities to 150 at-risk youth as part of its COVID-19 response program in Kazakhstan. Young people, who lost their jobs to the pandemic, took part in a subsidised three-month apprenticeship programme, accompanied by soft skills trainings and mentorship support. The apprentices were placed in private companies, NGOs and government agencies across the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Karagandy region. They were encouraged to try out a new profession and gain respective experience, while receiving a KZT 60,000 monthly allowance. For three months, the companies were monitoring the apprentices and upon completion of the internship hired those who performed the best. 84 participants out of 150 were women, who also make up over 90% of the recipients of targeted social assistance in Kazakhstan. The initiative is part of a larger UNDP Kazakhstan strategy on youth engagement, which aims to contribute to their employability

More on socio-economic response on page 2.

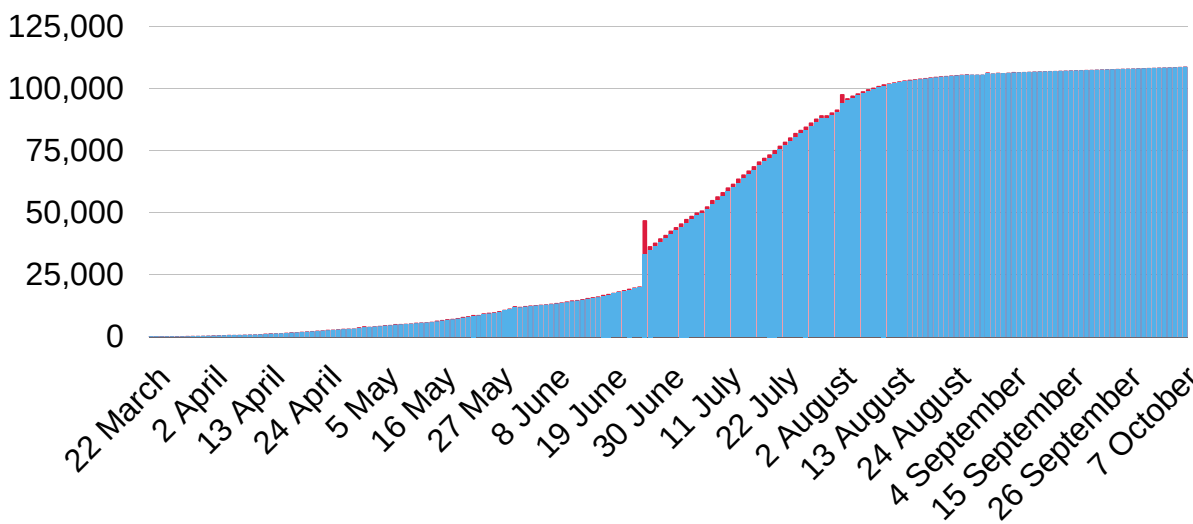


GENDER EQUALITY IN KAZAKH HEALTHCARE MODEL TO BE IMPROVED



Female medical workers compose the majority of frontline workers battling against the COVID-19. Their day-to-day challenges include high levels of exposure to the virus, long working hours, psychological stress, fatigue, occupational burnout, stereotypes, among others. The WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan has launched a one-year project funded by the Netherlands to study and provide recommendations to improve gender equality in the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will focus on studying female frontlines workers and the inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making in the Kazakh healthcare system. The WHO jointly with the UN Women and the UNFPA will share the survey results and recommendations with the Kazakh government and key stakeholders to help promote total gender parity in the country's healthcare system.

More on emergency health response on page 2.



NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES		AS OF 12:00 09.10.2020
CONFIRMED	108561	
RECOVERED	103758	
MORTALITY	1746	
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,6%	

NUMBER OF COVID-19 PNEUMONIA CASES		AS OF 12:00 09.10.2020
CONFIRMED	34384	
RECOVERED	27597	
MORTALITY	364	
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,05%	

REPORTED CASES BY DATE
 Number of cases (blue line)
 Increase per day (red line)

KEY SOURCES
 • www.coronavirus2020.kz
 • www.anti-corona.kz



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- To enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals in medical COVID-19 waste management and pandemic response in Kazakhstan, UNDP has developed draft recommendations to the regulatory standards for case treatment of medical COVID-19 waste; developed the structure and the concept of the healthcare waste treatment database, as well as inventory register to support its operation and functionality; conducted on-the-job capacity building training for 17 health workers from the medical centres in Nur-Sultan on responding to the pandemic through proper handling, storage, and treatment of medical waste, including transportation of the medical waste contaminated with COVID-19;
- UNDP and the Astana Civil Service Hub in partnership with the DO School Innovation Lab, Germany organized the webinar "Emerging from COVID-19: Key Mindsets for a Resilient Public Sector" aimed to discuss the qualities needed for civil servants to ensure the sustainability of the public sector;
- UNDP has developed a Portal of Social Services under the joint initiative with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population to address the needs of people with disabilities. The portal allows 600K people with disabilities to order and receive assistive devices and services online. Since January 2020 about 14,000 assistive devices were ordered through the portal;
- UNDP has launched three public surveys to assess the quality of public services, perception of corruption and ethics of civil servants during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO conducted a consultation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health on safety procedures during school re-opening in accordance with the new considerations issued by three agencies for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19 as of 14 September 2020;
- A joint plan of the Ministry of Education and Science, National Centre for Mental Health and UNICEF was launched in the mid-September to continue supporting school psychologists and staff, children and adolescents, and families in promoting mental health and psychological resilience, prevent violence and cyberbullying during distance learning. 17 webinars on five topics related to distance psychological support to children and families have been conducted for 5,383 participants from all regions of Kazakhstan;
- In the framework of the UNFPA project on providing gender-sensitive services to women living with HIV or at risk of HIV during the COVID-19 lockdown over 200 women received support from "Revansh" public foundation such as consultations, help with registration and documentation. During the project 13 peer consultants have been trained on providing sexual and reproductive health services and are now working in family planning offices of medical centers in Almaty, 20 women have been trained hairdresser's skills and 20 women obtained sewing skills;
- During the pandemic 4,200 migrants received assistance from the IOM missions in Central Asia. On 2 October 2020 – IOM missions in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in cooperation with governments facilitated the return of new 181 stranded vulnerable migrants back to Tajikistan by land through the territory of Uzbekistan.



EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE

- Meetings on safe schooling during COVID-19 have been held with the participation of WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the ministries of health and education;
- WHO and UNDRR organized the Central Asia Dialogue on sharing experience on COVID-19 response, which was attended by representatives of the ministries of health and emergency;
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has developed the national healthcare plan, which was approved for the next five years;
- Through the Solidarity Fund, WHO was enabled to support further the activities related to contact tracing, capacity building, and risk communication and community engagement;
- WHO Regional Office for Europe developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the collection, transportation and reception of samples for COVID-19, in collaboration with WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan;
- On 21 September UNICEF together with the Ministry of Health, USAID Central Asia and the US Embassy in Kazakhstan has launched a series of webinars to improve knowledge of healthcare providers on immunization in the context of COVID-19. The first online webinar has been attended by 80 medical workers from Almaty, Aktobe, Akmola and Karaganda regions;
- In Kazakhstan, there is a threefold increase in maternal mortality observed during the first nine months of 2020 (44.6 per 100,000 live births). On 5 October, UNICEF technically contributed to the national meeting of the Ministry of Health and the National scientific centres aimed at discussing the situation in the quality of the Mother and Child Health services. Moreover, UNICEF has technically supported the development of the confidential audit of maternal and perinatal mortality to be presented in December this year;
- WHO supporting the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Project on maintaining the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programme in Kazakhstan, and submitted the indicators for health targets to the Ministry of Health for approval. Summary of qualitative data collected from healthcare workers, specifically during the pandemic, is being compiled and finalized for reporting.



COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPLIES

\$ 4.4 mln

TOTAL AMOUNT OF WHO SUPPLIES PROVIDED

- WHO coordinated the arrival of 2,585,000 disposable medical masks to Almaty. The supplies to be distributed to medical workers across Kazakhstan;
- WHO shared the list of items critically needed in Kazakhstan for USD 500,000 with the WHO Regional Office. The items include PPEs, case management and lab supplies and will be covered by the WHO Regional Office for Europe;
- Since March 2020 as part of COVID-19 response and under the programme of Strengthening National Laboratories, WHO has received and distributed to the health departments and laboratories of Kazakhstan the supplies in the amount of USD 4,492,892.71.



SPOTLIGHT: SUPPORT TO RURAL SCHOOLS



UNICEF with support from USAID has provided supplies and information materials on COVID-19 prevention to 2,830 multi-graded rural remote schools attended by 194,000 children. The aim is to promote safe school environment and facilitate children's access to education via providing supplies (in total, 2,830 termo scanners and 2,830 sanitizers, plus a three-liter antiseptic stock to each school) and 84,900 posters with messages on safety measures to prevent COVID-19 and hand-washing practices that were developed and distributed among the target schools.



UN RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- On 24 September a coordination meeting of UNICEF, WHO, UN Resident Coordinator Office was held with participation of the Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Information and Public Development of Kazakhstan. The agenda included sharing of experiences and discussion of possible joint activities and risk communications, community engagement alignment;
- Joint communication plan with UN agencies and relevant ministries regarding COVID-19 is being developed;
- UNICEF promoted cyber-security and tips for parents and children to combat cyber-bullying with social media campaign;
- In support of the global campaign #ThankYouTeacher local initiative with Dinara Saduakassova, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in Kazakhstan, was launched on social media;
- WHO published a video to showcase the results of the WHO Kazakhstan team's activities;
- UNICEF, WHO prepared the content for a joint awareness campaign on school preparedness in the context of COVID-19 and a possible influenza epidemic with local national authorities;
- WHO prepared visuals with recommendations to the population to continue to observe hand hygiene and social distancing;
- WHO developed a video with the students from Nur-Orda School, increasing awareness of COVID-19;
- On 17 September, 140 participants from more than 20 countries discussed governments' crisis communications in the context of a pandemic on the Astana Civil Service Hub platform. Experts from Georgia, Kazakhstan, OECD and the United States shared their countries' best practices in crisis communications talking about effective digital communication strategies, government-media interaction techniques, coherent and coordinated messaging and outreach to wider public;
- On 25 September 2020, UNESCO Almaty in cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok and KERIS (South Korea) convened the first webinar in the framework of the virtual Central Asia Symposium on ICT in Education 2020. The webinar, attended by over 260 participants from Central Asia and Asia-Pacific countries, examined the impact of COVID-19 on rural and remote areas in Central Asian and other countries, which have taken emergency measures and moved towards providing education through distance and online models.
- On International Sign Language Day UNFPA re-circulated a story on face shields procured by UNFPA with the National Association of Women with Disabilities, "Shyrak", highlighting challenges faced by people with hearing impairments during COVID-19. Videos for persons with disabilities during COVID-19 have been re-circulated to draw attention to the role of sign language in ensuring the rights of vulnerable people.

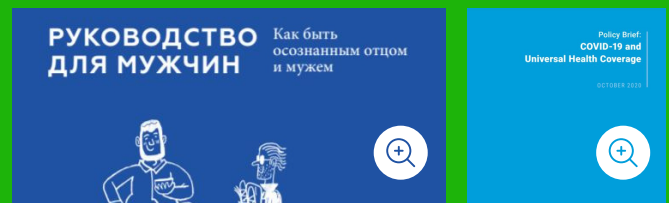


ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS

- UNFPA op-ed focusing on demographic projections concerning ageing in Kazakhstan and ways to enhance demographic resilience'
- UNDP human interest story, featuring the Professional Rehabilitation Centre in Nur-Sultan, helping persons with disabilities find jobs;
- IOM Interview for Atameken Business Channel on Trafficking in Persons.



USEFUL INFO MATERIALS



- Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage
- UNFPA book on how to be an engaged husband and father and promote harmony in the family was developed in partnership with the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan. The material provides information on reproductive health including family planning, how to consciously approach fatherhood and support the spouse during and after pregnancy, how to deal with stress and prevent gender based violence, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA policy paper on the importance of youth-friendly health services including risks and protective factors impacting young people;
- UNFPA brochures for youth on ways to stop bullying, sexually-transmitted infections, harassment, how to nurture healthy relationships, and about youth-friendly health centres with a focus on reproductive health.

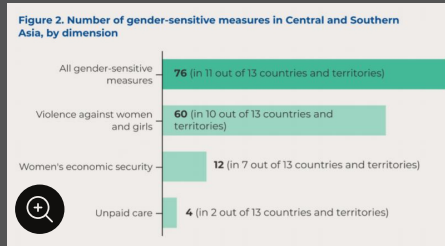


COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA: USEFUL TIPS

It is highly important for countries to do everything possible to avoid outbreaks of influenza that put additional strain on already overburdened health systems. The consequences of simultaneous influenza and COVID-19 infection have not yet been fully explored, but it is clear that this year's influenza prevention is more important than ever. The most effective way to protect against influenza is through vaccination.

READ MORE

COVID-19 GENDER RESPONSE TRACKER



UNDP has promoted the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, which monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that have integrated a gender lens. The tracker is coordinated by UNDP with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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UN IN KAZAKHSTAN MEDIA COVERAGE

TOTAL REACH 7 MLN
ENGAGEMENT 145K

