



COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Dr. Ademi Zhiyenbayeva - participant of the UN photoexhibition "Women on the frontline of the COVID-19 response"

KAZAKH CAPITAL REACHES RED LEVEL COVID-19 DANGER AREA

NUR-SULTAN – On 10 December, the capital city Nur-Sultan has entered the red zone, as the city witnessed a surge in COVID-19 cases. So far there are no plans to set up checkpoints in Nur-Sultan or limit the work of shopping malls during the weekends. Chief Sanitary Doctor warned citizens to follow the quarantine restrictions and to take measures to protect themselves and others, including social distancing and wearing masks. The "yellow" zone includes Almaty city, Pavlodar, Kostanay, Akmola, East Kazakhstan, Atyrau and North Kazakhstan regions. The other regions are in the "green" zone.

At the legislative level, the Kazakh government introduced new rules to strengthen the powers of the chief state sanitary doctor regarding the introduction of restrictive measures and lockdown. The COVID-19 Control Center and Saqbol apps were launched to control the spread of the coronavirus infection. The Ministry of Healthcare is also developing a new Zertteu mobile app, which boasts three main functions – QR code scanning for visitors, passengers' profiling and a monitoring system to track those who should be in-home quarantine.

The authorities are working to ensure COVID-19 testing availability at all healthcare facilities, as reported, so far more than 3.6 million tests were performed. The laboratories perform more than 76,000 tests on average per day. The current test capacity (per 100,000 people) has almost doubled since July – from 213,000 to 370,000 tests per 100,000 of the population.

HIGHLIGHTS

ORANGE THE WORLD: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence UN Country Team has conducted various outreach events and campaigns with a focus on increased number of domestic violence cases during COVID-19 lockdown. The campaign included a [joint video](#) with the diplomatic community, UNFPA and UN Women [social media cards](#); [video of Kazakh journalists, TV anchors and influencers](#) with a powerful message against domestic violence; a [high-level conference](#) on expanding access to justice for survivors; [UNHCR project "Without Borders"](#) about stateless women in Central Asia. Photoexhibition "Women on the frontline of COVID-19 response", etc. Moreover, on 8 December the EU-UN flagship Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan was launched online with participation of high-level state officials across the region.

More on risk communications on page 3.



SINCE THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK UN DELIVERED 76 TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

On 9 December a WHO humanitarian cargo arrived in Almaty. The special flight delivered a shipment of 1,400 infrared thermometers for the total of USD 54,000, and 20,000 examination gloves. The supplies will go to "Pharmatsiya" company for further distribution to medical organizations in the country. Since March 2020, in total more than 76 tons of cargo has been sent to Kazakhstan by WHO, primarily to support health workers involved in the fight against the pandemic.

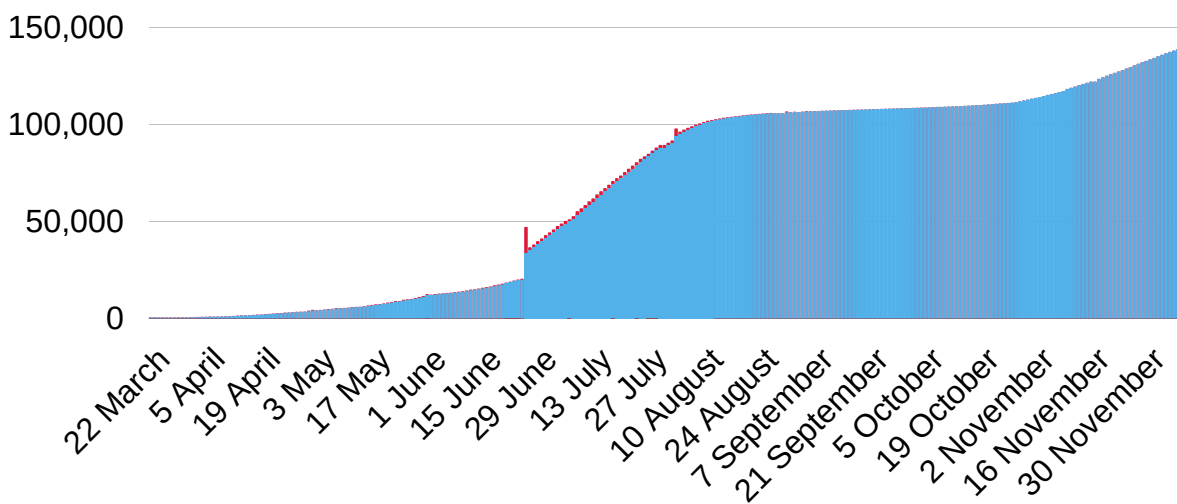
More on emergency health response on page 2.



UN ASSISTED OVER 5,000 MIGRANTS AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Recently IOM organized the return of over 500 Tajik labour migrants who had been stranded due to COVID-19 restrictions and could not leave the territory of Kazakhstan. Moreover, during the last month with UNICEF support 91 migrant children (46 boys and 45 girls) received community-based psycho-social support services and were documented with the support from the selected NGOs. UN is committed to continue facilitating voluntary return of those in need, removing people from the socio-economic and legal vacuum they ended up in due to the pandemic.

More on socio-economic response on page 2.



NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12:00 14.12.2020

CONFIRMED	142325
RECOVERED	126182
MORTALITY	2088
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,46%

NUMBER OF COVID-19 PNEUMONIA CASES AS OF 12:00 14.12.2020

CONFIRMED	43952
RECOVERED	31519
MORTALITY	464
CASE FATALITY RATE	1,05%

REPORTED CASES BY DATE

KEY SOURCES

Number of cases • www.coronavirus2020.kz
Increase per day • www.anti-corona.kz



COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- To enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals in medical COVID-19 waste management UNDP developed regulatory documents for case treatment of medical COVID-19 waste within its joint initiative with ADB. Also, a healthcare waste treatment database, as well as inventory register to support its operation and functionality has been developed within this initiative;
- A five-month training program "HR Practicum: HR Trends and Practical Skills", jointly organized by the Agency for Civil Service Hub, UNDP and the Agency for Civil Service Affairs of Kazakhstan to assist government personnel management services in ensuring the effective functioning of the state bodies amid COVID-19, has been completed. More than 90 civil servants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have enhanced [their professional skills](#).
- Kazakhstan joined the list of countries that signed the Global Compact on safe, orderly, and regular migration. On 12 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection presented achievements of the country and its contribution to the Global Compact taking into account the COVID-19 outbreak;
- IOM conducted a series of regional online training courses for civil servants on "Return Migration to Central Asia". The courses were attended by representatives of the Public Administration Academies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Russia;
- On 26 November the [International Online Conference](#) entitled "Preventing Gender-Based Violence against Women and Strengthening Women's Access to Justice" was jointly organized by the National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, UN Women, UNFPA and Ne Molchi Public Fund;
- On 30 November, consultation meeting on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was held with the participation of the National Commission, UN Women, key ministries, NGOs, and national experts. Recommendations are provided for further advancement of the fulfilment of Kazakhstan's obligations with a call to ensure the participation of women in decision making, especially in the times of COVID-19;
- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to develop the 2021-2025 National Mother and Child Health Strategy and Action Plan which includes a section on prevention and control of health-care services associated infections;
- To provide data for further monitoring of the implementation of "Active longevity" National Plan of Actions, UNFPA conducted a comprehensive national sociological survey on socio-economic status and needs of older persons in Kazakhstan, including their needs during COVID-19;
- UNICEF and World Bank held an online webinar for over 300 education sector managers and academia on remedial programmes, mitigation strategy for learning loss and formative assessment during COVID -19 pandemic;
- UNICEF in partnership with the "Korgau" NGO distributed life-saving information on prevention of COVID-19 and risks of domestic violence and its mitigation measures for over 5000 families and children in difficult life circumstances in Nur-Sultan, Shymkent, East Kazakhstan and Mangystau regions.

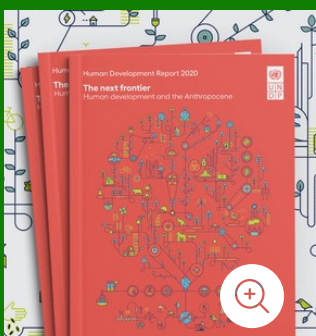


EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE

- On 25 November WHO senior management met with Minister of Healthcare Dr Alexey Tsoy. Among the topics discussed were issues related to the preparedness of the MOH to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. WHO will continue engaging in other important public health areas such as mother and child health, environmental health and research;
- WHO representatives visited the National Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health to discuss the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, focusing on the implementation of restrictive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and statistical reporting of morbidity;
- WHO with the support of the Ministry of Health organized a workshop on "[Antimicrobial Therapy in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" to discuss the use of antibiotics to treat patients with bacterial complications when infected with COVID-19;
- WHO conducted a webinar regarding the preparedness of the national immunization supply chain to accommodate COVID-19 vaccines;
- WHO [updates](#) Physical Activity Guidelines Based on [COVID-19 pandemic](#). The new guidelines recommend moderate to vigorous aerobic activity weekly for all adults, including those with chronic illness or disabilities, and an average of 60 minutes per day for children and adolescents. The summary of the recommendations are also available in [Russian](#);
- External Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene](#) (WASH) assessments were supported by UNICEF in partnership with the KAMEDA Public Fund in three perinatal centres and three children's hospitals in Karaganda, Temirtau cities and East Kazakhstan region;
- UNICEF continues supporting school psychologists and staff, children and adolescents, and parents/families in respect to promoting mental health and psychological resilience, prevent violence and cyberbullying during distance learning;
- To address a gap identified under the joint plan with the Ministry of Education and the National Centre for Mental Health UNICEF launched the "School for Young Psychologists" to support over 600 school psychologists from 10 regions of Kazakhstan, who have less than 2-years experience.



SAVE THE DATE: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020



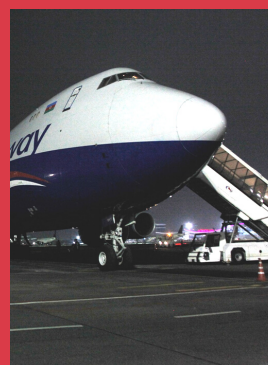
The new 2020 Human Development Report will be launched on 15 December. COVID-19 and its unprecedented effects on human development are the challenges we are likely to face in the Anthropocene, unless humans transform the way we interact with the planet. But the future is not set in stone- yet. We have a once-in-a-generation an opportunity to choose to change, and the 2020 HDR suggests a way forward.

Click on the picture to find out more.



COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPLIES

UN Women provided technical equipment to the most vulnerable women and girls in rural areas of Almaty and Akmola regions in order support them during the COVID-19 and further increase the potential and economic independence of rural women and girls. Women and girls received laptops, routers, Internet package with annual service. Most women highlighted that they will use laptops for work and to start their own businesses.



- WHO delivered 6,000 Taqpath RT-PCR and 6,000 Magmax Viral Pathogen to the National Center of Expertise in Almaty, amounting for USD 72,000;
- WHO is supporting importation of Biomed supplies which include 39 Patient Monitors, 126 pulse oximeters, 200 oxygen concentrators spare parts, 400 nasal oxygen cannula and 400 vent masks amounting for USD 138,914 and to be delivered to the health departments in all regions;
- WHO has received Biomed supplies for case management in the amount of USD 139,000, to be delivered to all health departments based on the MoH distribution list.



UN RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- During the nation-wide Volunteer of the Year Award, several UN volunteers were named best: Y-PEER volunteer network, supported by UNFPA, has won the "Volunteer of the Year" International award for "Contribution to the Development of Healthcare"; WHO volunteer Alexander Zhaguparov won in the nomination "Active Engagement in Healthcare System Development"; and UNDP volunteer Abdimalik Balbayev was named best in "SDGs Leader" nomination;
- UNFPA launched an online presentation of the [photo-exhibition](#) "Women on the frontline of the COVID-19 response". The offline format of the exhibition in Mega Silkway mall was organized by UN Resident Coordinator Office. The event gained wide media coverage and specific social media engagement contest were launched;
- 50 psychologists of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools (NIS) were trained by UNFPA online on counselling skills to provide support to gender-based violence survivors, on 'Valeology' course with strengthened components on sexual and reproductive health, and one topic specifically dedicated to prevention measures against COVID-19;
- On World Children's Day UNICEF organized a digital campaign in social media locally and globally. Under #KidsTakeover several children took over the UNICEF Instagram account and reimagined the future after the COVID-19 pandemic in their [video messages](#). The campaign was also supported by high-level officials: [President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#), [Minister of Education and Science](#), [Children Rights Ombudsman](#) and many others;
- WHO engaged with [youth and adolescents](#) in advocacy messaging on risks of contracting COVID-19;
- WHO promoted an appropriate use of antibiotics during the COVID-19 outbreak during World Antibiotic Awareness Week;
- UNHCR conducted a [training for journalists](#) from Central Asian countries on covering the topic of nationality and statelessness as part of EU-funded Internews project "Strengthening Resilience to Radicalization and Disinformation in Central Asia through Independent Media";
- UNESCO in cooperation with UNECE and UNEP organized an online [Sub-regional High-Level Policy Dialogue on Building Back Better in Coalition with Nature](#) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to foster regional cooperation and response efforts, capitalizing on nature-based solutions for greener recovery;
- UNESCO held an online ResiliArt Debate titled "[Museums During the Pandemic: Adapting to the New Normal](#)" to discuss the current challenges faced by museums in Central Asia. During the debate experts discussed inclusive and interactive approaches, knowledge and skills to improve the work of museums and attract new audiences;
- UNAIDS Kazakhstan facilitated an [online roundtable](#) on best practices of Russia and Kazakhstan on pediatric treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV and programmes aimed at providing social and psychological support;
- IOM launched an information marathon dedicated to «The International Migrant Day». NGO representatives in Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Aktau and Karaganda carry out information activities in cooperation with city Akimats, police departments and other partner organizations.



ARTICLES, VIDEOS AND INTERVIEWS

- [New Europe article](#): Afghan women arrive in Kazakhstan as part of EU-funded educational project;
- [Interview](#) of WHO Kazakhstan Country Representative Dr Caroline Clarinval and EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan Mr Sven-Olov Carlsson on UN-EU collaboration in assisting country response to COVID-19 and strengthening health systems resilience as well as emergency response and recovery;
- [Interview](#) of UNDP Resident Representative Yakup Beris to Egemen Kazakhstan, covering strategic partnership with Kazakhstan as well as UNDP's response measures during COVID-19;
- UNAIDS Kazakhstan Director a.i. [speech](#) during the [World AIDS Day press conference](#) organized by the Central Communications Service. The main focus was on inequalities and stigma and discrimination being the main drivers of HIV and COVID-19;
- [Video conversation](#) about UNICEF volunteer experience of 17-year-old Aibanu during the pandemic with [Millie Bobby Brown](#), UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador;
- [UNDP video story](#): 1,000 civil servants in Kazakhstan upgrade their digital and communication skills;
- [UNDP story](#) on the hidden pandemic – gender-based violence, which has increased in Kazakhstan by 25% with the onset of the COVID-19. The story covers UNDP's initiative, which inspired a change in attitude of Kazakhstan police force.

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN LAUNCHED



On 8 December, the Program was officially launched with the participation of UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and high-level government representatives from Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. Funded with an initial approved budget of \$4.3 mln this regional program is part of a global initiative funded by the European Union in over 25 countries and regions addressing different forms of violence against women as well as harmful practices.

UN IN KAZAKHSTAN MEDIA COVERAGE

TOTAL REACH 15 MLN
ENGAGEMENT 873K



JOIN THE SURVEY

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