



KNOWLEDGE

4 action in South Asia

UNICEF SOUTH ASIA
Issue #1 | October 2020

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The Knowledge 4 Action in South Asia spotlight for this issue focuses on our first set of 3 case studies from India that highlight UNICEF'S COVID-19 interventions. The case studies provide specific analysis in access to nutritious foods, continuity of counselling and provision of health services despite disruptions by COVID-19 pandemic. Summaries and full case studies are accessible below.

Enhancing access to nutritious foods for vulnerable groups in Gujarat during COVID-19 Lockdown: This case study describes an innovative nutrition gardening initiative under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). The case study also shares key progress and lessons learned from this initiative in mitigating disruptions in access to nutritious foods by vulnerable households. ([Access full case study here](#))

UNICEF Jharkhand Supports Continuity in Breastfeeding Counselling in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres Amidst Lockdown: This case study describes efforts by UNICEF to ensure continuity in the delivery of infant and young child feeding counselling services in the NRCs in the State of Jharkhand. The case study shares key progress and lessons learned in protecting, promotion and support for continued breastfeeding for the most vulnerable children admitted in NRCs in the state. ([Access full case study here](#))

The Role of Health Camps in Cyclone Amphan Affected South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal during COVID-19: This case study highlights the role of partnership and volunteerism in the provision of health services in the Sunderbans delta in South 24 Pargana district during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Access full case study here](#))

01: Education



Guidance on distance learning modalities to reach all children and youth during school closures: focusing on low- and no-tech modalities to reach the most marginalized.

This guidance on continuity of learning during school closures draws on the key lessons learned from the COVID-19 education response around the world. The target audience is government policymakers and education staff of national and international organizations involved in the education response during school closures. Each section covers key learning modalities and how they can be used for self-learning or teacher-guided learning during school closures. It focuses on low and no-tech modalities to reach the most disadvantaged and marginalized children.

[Access full document here](#)

School Reopening Toolkit: Planning and Monitoring for Safe Return to School.

This toolkit provides checklists, technical guides, and key resources which aim to guide and inform decisions, preparations and actions needed at the Ministerial, sub-national and school-level when planning for safe school reopening and operations and monitoring for safe return to school.

[Access full document here](#)

Guidance on Monitoring Learning Continuity during COVID-19 School Closures.

This guidance is meant to be used by anyone who is considering a monitoring exercise to better understand the reach and use of distance learning modalities. The guidance is divided into six key steps, each with guiding questions, points for further consideration, and examples of good practices in monitoring and more generally in survey design. Accompanying this guidance is a Question Bank, which provides sample questions to understand children's, parents' and teachers' experiences with distance learning.

[Access full document here and here](#)

02: Nutrition

Nutrition exchange South Asia: improving young children's diets.

This issue of Nutrition Exchange (NEX) South Asia on complementary feeding practices includes nine articles from six countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The issue gives an overview from UNICEF ROSA and a regional perspective on tackling the double burden of malnutrition. The issue focuses on and gives priority to the 'voice' of national government actors as the primary authors, along with their development partners.

[Access full document here](#)

Universal vitamin A supplementation for preschool-aged children in the context of COVID-19: GAVA consensus statement.

Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) remains a pervasive problem in much of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) is a life-saving intervention that is vital to reduce the risk of child mortality, morbidity, and malnutrition in countries with high levels of VAD. These 2-guidance note serves as a consensus document based on the Global Alliance for Vitamin A (GAVAs) review of WHO guidance for other services that use mass campaigns (e.g. vaccination) and routine health delivery platforms.

[Access both full documents here and here](#)



03: Gender



Minimum requirements checklist for integrating gender equality in the implementation of the UN framework for the socioeconomic response to COVID-19.

This checklist highlights the minimum requirements for the integration of gender equality in the implementation of the UN framework, for immediate health system and socioeconomic support in response to COVID-19. The primary audience is the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) engaged in socio-economic assessment, design, implementation and monitoring of technical support, operations and programming for COVID-19 responses.

[Access full document here](#)

UNICEF technical note: five actions for gender equality in the COVID-19 response.

This technical note has been prepared to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and to stimulate discussion. The technical note gives overview and prioritizes five core programmatic and advocacy actions that focus on public health, social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the learning and adaptation to the pandemic improves over the next months, the technical note is intended to be an iterative global good that will be expanded and elaborated.

[Access full document here](#)

04: Communications

Lives upended: how COVID-19 threatens the futures of 600 million South Asian children.

These 2 reports provide overview and highlight some of the critical areas such as health, nutrition, education, WASH, protection, youth, and community that are heavily affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. The reports call on governments and their international and the private sector to prioritize a series of critical actions and policies. Resources and tools for planning and implementing nudge-based interventions in schools are also provided.

[Access full document here and here](#)



05: Child Protection

Impact of COVID-19 on child protection in South Asia.

This Framework on the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection in South Asia analyses the two-to-three-year impact of COVID-19. The framework covers issues of how the child protection system must adapt and respond to prevent and address the protection vulnerabilities of children. It takes advantage of any opportunities to reform the child protection approach to better protect children now and in the future. The framework was jointly drafted by the CP section and Nepal CO with review and inputs from the other COs.

[Access full document here](#)

Webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage in South Asia, 9 April 2020.

UNICEF ROSA, UNFPA APRO and Plan International Asia Pacific Regional Hub jointly hosted a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage in South Asia, guidance being developed, and emerging programmatic responses on 9 April 2020.

[Access full document here](#)

Disruptions in violence prevention and response services in South Asia.

This document highlights the disruption of violence prevention and response services for the 616 million children that live in the 7 countries in South Asia. The information is presented in figures and maps which show the percentage of countries in South Asia that have reported any level of disruption in any services related to violence against children.

[Access full document here](#)

06: WASH



ROSA interim guide for preventing and mitigating COVID-19 in High Density Low Resource settings.

This document includes infographics focuses on urban areas, urban slums, refugee camps and displaced populations where global guidance on social-physical distance, continuity of services and other recommendations may not be fully applicable. It identifies key flash points, adaptative innovations, strategic guiding principles and or interventions to strengthen and support an integrated public health response around health, C4D, WASH, nutrition, protection, and education.

[Access full document here](#)

Using environmental nudges to improve handwashing with soap among school children.

This resource guide provides overview on rapidly deployable interventions for use as an interim measure during school re-openings. There is an upcoming practical guidance on how this guidance could be implemented including tools and equipment needed as well as a monitoring framework.

[Access full document here](#)

07: Country Focus

Bangladesh

UNICEF delivers pioneering initiative to provide home education in south-eastern Chittagong of Bangladesh during the COVID-19 lockdown.

A UNICEF-supported home learning initiative in the remote south-eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh has made significant progress in offsetting the effects of a country-wide education lockdown implemented due to COVID-19.

In addition, UNICEF has supplied home-based learning packs for the children. The learning packs contain two months of curriculum that provide instructions to parents on how to engage children at home with meaningful learning activities. The learning-at-home package is especially designed for children in hard-to-reach areas providing daily routine of children’s activities which include rhymes and songs. The curriculum has been adapted and modified from the existing Para Centers’ module which is already familiar to the children. The aim is to expand the programme to all the 53,000 children in the three CHT districts with the support from government and other partners.



[Access full story here](#)

Nepal

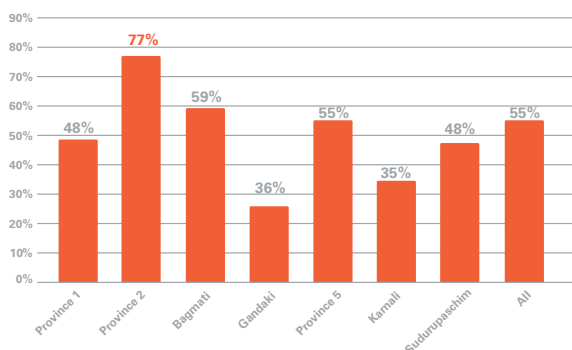
Tracking the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Families in Nepal.

The first and second series of the monthly household surveys to track the socio-economic multi sectoral impact of COVID-19 on children and families in Nepal. Three key findings from the second survey are summarized in addition to the graphs:

- There is a significant drop in the share of respondents belonging to the top income group (50K+). This means that the income distribution has shifted downward significantly.
- The findings imply a strong possibility that poverty has gone up, though the change might be temporary.
- Coping patterns of respondents have not changed since May. Most respondents from low income families choose to borrow funds. Middle- and high-income families choose to use their savings.

[Access both full documents here and here](#)

Percentage reporting earnings or livelihoods losses by province



Percentage reporting earnings or livelihoods losses and place of residence

