



Reporting Period: 1-30 April 2020

UNFPA Global COVID-19 Situation Report No. 1

United Nations Population Fund



Highlights

- UNFPA is supporting governments and partners in prioritizing the needs of women and girls. COVID-19 is becoming a protection crisis, with severely increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV). It has further disrupted access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Consequences of the pandemic and underfunding could be catastrophic for women and girls, older persons, and marginalised groups.
- Key priority areas are ensuring continuity and adaptation of SRH and GBV services, including GBV prevention and mitigation, providing risk communication and community engagement, mitigating the impact on supply chain for lifesaving SRH supplies including modern contraceptives, and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- As the world's largest provider of donated contraceptives, UNFPA is working with partners to minimize shortages of contraceptives and maternal health medicines, and assessing stock-out risks.
- UNFPA has adapted to alternative modes of working, while continuing to provide financial, programme and technical support, and coordinating with governments and local partners. A [body of technical guidance](#) was developed to support UNFPA and partners' work.
- UNFPA is employing alternative solutions to deliver services including virtual outreach, mobile clinics, and hotlines for GBV survivors, and training workers to provide mental health and psychosocial support.
- We are building upon knowledge and capacities of communities and young people to protect themselves, and engage in prevention and response. UNFPA supports national actors and localization.
- UNFPA leads GBV coordination in 37 contexts, working with partners to ensure life-saving care and support to GBV survivors (clinical management of rape and psychosocial support) amid restrictions.
- The pandemic is threatening gains made by UNFPA and partners towards achieving its three transformative results to end unmet need for family planning, end GBV and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, and end preventable maternal deaths by 2030. UNFPA released [data](#) showing that more than 47 million women could lose access to contraception, leading to 7 million unintended pregnancies in the coming months.

Situation in Numbers

 **3,759,967** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

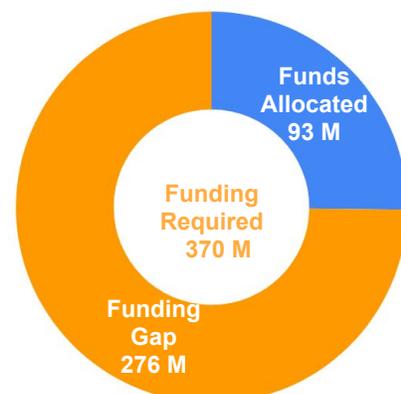
 **259,474** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO May 8, 2020

Key Population Groups

-  **97 M** Pregnant Women
-  **1.6 B** Women of Reproductive Age
-  **1.6 B** Young People (age 10-24)
-  **483 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

Global Funding Status (US\$)*



* As of 8 May 2020

Leadership, Coordination and Partnership

At the country, regional and global levels, UNFPA is coordinating efforts to reduce the spread and negative impacts of COVID-19 with government, UN, NGO and private sector partners. UNFPA is working closely with partners through country offices, 6 Regional Offices and HQ.

- At global level, the UNFPA Executive Director attends the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals coordination meetings, and meetings of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee for high-level decision making in the overall COVID-19 response. Under the auspices of the Executive Committee, UNFPA actively contributed to the Secretary-General's Report on the UN's COVID-19 Response.
- UNFPA works within international humanitarian and development systems to ensure the needs of women and young people are included in COVID-19 guidance, response plans and country-level implementation. UNFPA's work contributes to prevention and control of the pandemic to ensure the continuity of essential services for women, young people and vulnerable populations in COVID-19 affected areas.
- UNFPA is a member of the WHO-led UN Crisis Management Team.
- UNFPA collaborates with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General to develop Secretary-General reports and briefs on COVID-19 in areas such as gender, human rights, people on the move, children, older persons and others. UNFPA co-led with WHO the drafting of the health pillar of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, and provided contributions to the other pillars of social protection and basic services, economic recovery, and multilateral collaboration.
- At country level, UNFPA engages through UN country coordination mechanisms to ensure the continuity of essential services such as sexual and reproductive health and response to gender-based violence (GBV), and mitigation of social and economic impacts, including protection from GBV. UNFPA and the broader UN system have issued technical guidance for country offices.
- The Director of the UNFPA Humanitarian Office is a member of the IASC Emergency Directors Group that is leading global coordination in countries affected by humanitarian crisis through the cluster system. UNFPA leads the GBV Area of Responsibility under the Protection Cluster, and is a key partner in the Health Cluster, working to prioritize women's needs. UNFPA co-authored IASC briefs on Flexible Funding for Humanitarian Response and COVID-19, Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak, and PSEA during the COVID-19 Response.
- UNFPA coordinates with the WHO team that leads the WHO response to COVID-19. UNFPA is a stakeholder at global level, and UNFPA regional offices are coordinating with regional WHO teams. UNFPA is also represented through its technical experts in the WHO experts' groups in developing technical guidance, actively engaging and coordinating for regional and country support, and strategic planning and financing.
- UNFPA is part of inter-agency working groups on Health Operations, Social Impact, GBV, Human Rights, Impact on Critical Supply Chain and Goods, and the IASC Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group. UNFPA is also engaged through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.
- UNFPA is a member of the Advisory Committee of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (along with UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UNCTAD, and WFP).
- UNFPA coordinates internally between divisions and levels through a COVID-19 Crisis Response Team, led at the Deputy Executive Director level, that meets regularly to ensure efforts are coordinated, strategic and effective.

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) during COVID-19 remains a key priority for UNFPA and must be integrated into all aspects of the response to the pandemic. As in other health emergencies, COVID-19 increases the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and exacerbates inequalities and existing vulnerabilities. In such a crisis, access to information on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse may be limited, and complaint and reporting channels may be compromised with even less access for remote communities and affected individuals.

As immediate measures, UNFPA disseminated an IASC Technical Guidance Note on PSEA during the COVID-19 Response in five official UN languages to all country offices. This Note outlines core actions that need to be taken at the outset of the public health response. UNFPA also provided additional operational guidance on PSEA key priorities during the pandemic to all country offices. To bolster efforts, webinars were held with PSEA focal points in UNFPA regional offices.

Jointly with UN-system partners, UNFPA is currently preparing targeted training and technical support for duty stations that are considered at particularly high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Strategic Partnerships with the Private Sector

UNFPA is engaging with private partners globally and at regional and country levels in support of the COVID-19 response through partnerships for resource mobilization, reach, and the development of new technologies and innovative solutions to meet immediate, medium and long term needs. Highlights include:

- Launch of Individual Giving COVID-19 Emergency Campaign: [Protect Pregnant Women, New Mothers and Newborns](#) to engage public and raise funds for UNFPA's COVID-19 response (\$245,000 raised to date).
- Receipt of in-kind donations of essential products and services at global and country levels, including dignity kits and PPE, (total value of \$250,000).
- Launch of COVID-19 global campaign with network of more than 20 partner organizations and Prezi using innovative video assets customised by young people, translated (25 languages available to date), and adapted to local context.
- Partnerships with other digital companies (including Flo/Women's Health App and the Maternity Foundation/[Safe Delivery App](#)) to develop and disseminate SRH-related information in relation to the COVID-19 crisis, including on pregnancy, breastfeeding and menstrual health.
- Outreach to private sector companies for in-kind support of IT equipment, digital technologies and logistical support.



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post from UNFPA. At the top left is the UNFPA logo, followed by the text 'UNFPA Sponsored · 🌐'. To the right of the logo is a three-dot menu icon. The main text of the post reads: 'Yemen has some of the lowest immunity in the world and only half the hospitals are open. They n... Continue Reading'. Below the text is a video player showing a close-up of a newborn baby wrapped in a white blanket, with a play button icon overlaid. At the bottom of the video player is a red banner with the text 'CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RAMADAN APPEAL'. Below the video player, the text says: 'Give your Sadaqah to the pregnant women and newborns of Yemen UNFPA: On the ground protecting the most at risk unfpa.org Not affiliated with Facebook'. On the far right, there is a white button with the text 'Donate Now'.

Global Response Summary

The UNFPA response aligns with the [2030 Agenda](#), [WHO global strategic preparedness and response plan](#), [UN-coordinated global humanitarian response plan](#), the [UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19](#), and [UNFPA COVID-19 global response plan](#). UNFPA has produced COVID-19 regional situation reports for the month of April that document the work of regional and country offices. (See links below)

Continuity of SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

UNFPA is supporting continuity of SRH interventions by:

- **Supporting national and local level planning, coordination and monitoring** to ensure access to SRH services. This includes provision of technical and programmatic assistance, information management support, and coordination support to local, national and international partners from all sectors.
- **Strengthening operational and logistics support to global supply chains**, including PPE for health workers and ensuring supply of modern contraceptives and other commodities.
- **Investing in SRH capacity building**, including training frontline health workers and government partners on a range of SRH services, including infection prevention and control. This also includes supporting referral systems when public and private modes of transport have been constrained.
- **Documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned** from previous health crises, such as those from combating the most recent outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in the West and Central Africa region.
- **Monitoring the utilisation of SRH services through data**, both qualitative and quantitative. Several countries offices noted a decline in utilisation indicators for SRH and GBV response services during March 2020. The data collected is therefore being used for advocacy to address the bottlenecks to utilisation of such services.
- **Adapting and translating the newest international guidelines and technical documents** in each country, so that national health experts and service providers have immediate access to the most updated recommendations on SRH services in the COVID-19 context.
- **Mobilising technical and financial resources to adapt pre-existing programmes and services**, such as telemedicine appointments that enable health service providers to remotely deliver family planning counselling, antenatal and postnatal care, as well as other services based on countries' priorities and resources. Such efforts have a significant impact for the access of all women and girls to SRH services, but especially those in rural areas or otherwise marginalised.

UNFPA COVID-19 Regional Situation Reports for April

[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA Arab States](#)
[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA Asia and Pacific](#)
[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)
[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA Eastern and Southern Africa](#)
[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2 for UNFPA West and Central Africa](#)

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[COVID-19 Situation Report No. 1 for UNFPA West and Central Africa](#)

Continuity and adaptation of GBV interventions

UNFPA is addressing GBV by:

- **Supporting national and local planning, coordination and monitoring** to ensure prevention and response to GBV, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. This includes engaging with country offices and governments to support high-profile interventions, such as the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women, and ensure national response plans to COVID-19 are gender-sensitive and address GBV risks.
- **Leading or co-leading inter-agency coordination mechanisms for GBV** in emergencies prevention and response, working closely with the WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF and other UN partner agencies, and national and regional non-governmental organisations and national government authorities.
- **Investing in capacity building of health workers to respond to GBV**, including providing MHPSS to survivors of GBV, adapting GBV referral pathways and developing GBV referral guidelines. UNFPA also supports health workers with necessary hygiene products and PPE to be able to carry out their work safely.
- **Ensuring the continuity and accessibility of GBV prevention and response services** for women, adolescents and youth. This includes addressing the dignity needs of women and girls in quarantine centres, which will also help them reintegrate into society at the end of their quarantine. Additionally, UNFPA engages in continued advocacy for the inclusion of GBV prevention and response essential services in country response.
- **Conducting regional rapid gender assessments on COVID-19-related challenges** faced by women and men, including economic vulnerabilities and access to GBV prevention and response services.
- **Facilitating the sharing of best practices between countries to address urgent needs** of vulnerable women and girls, especially survivors of GBV, through the regional knowledge-sharing mechanisms on COVID-19.
- **Developing online media and advocacy tools on GBV prevention and response** during COVID-19, and working with faith-based leaders, community networks and other local-level groups to conduct awareness-raising activities like seminars on protection issues.

Impact assessment on the health and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19

UNFPA is well-equipped to lead and contribute to assessing COVID-19 impacts on the most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, young people, and women, focusing on GBV and SRH services and education, civic engagement, and demographic risk analysis. In line with the UN's Secretary-General [report](#) on responding to the socio economic impacts of COVID-19.

UNFPA is supporting socio-economic assessments by:

- **Assessing the socio-economic impacts** of COVID-19, building on existing analysis, but with a specific focus ICPD and UNFPA programmatic areas.
- **Participating in inter-agency assessments** and engaging with UN partners at the regional and country levels.
- **Developing thematic studies and assessments**, specific to SRH and GBV, and targeting vulnerable groups.
- **Developing policy recommendations** for governments.

Saima was rarely at ease moving around the city by herself.

The Women Safety App makes the city safer for many in Pakistan's Punjab province, including women with disabilities who are at high risk of harassment and other forms of gender-based violence.



Global Response Summary (continued)

Risk communication and community engagement

UNFPA builds upon the knowledge and capacities of communities and youth to protect themselves, and engage in prevention and response efforts. For instance, women's frontline interaction with communities positions them to positively influence the design and implementation of prevention activities and community engagement.

On localisation, UNFPA has continued to provide more support and funding to national partners. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund allocation for COVID-19 response, released early in April 2020, is playing a key role in enabling UNFPA to deliver against the commitments of the Grand Bargain on localisation. In particular, it has enabled UNFPA to strengthen its partnership with local responders and served as a catalyst to enhance GBV sub-cluster coordination with all partners (notably national and international NGOs and government counterparts). This has strengthened capacity of implementing partners providing life-saving interventions.

More specifically, UNFPA is promoting risk communication and community engagement by:

- **Undertaking SRH and GBV risk communications and community engagement activities** adapted to the local contexts and languages. This includes sharing key messages and health education materials, and GBV and mental health and psychosocial support information for vulnerable populations - women of reproductive age, pregnant women, youth, elderly, female health workers and internally displaced populations.
- **Supporting toll-free hotlines** for provision of accurate information.
- **Setting up communication platforms** such as podcasts, hotlines and media, and mobilising a wide range of partner, to reach as many people as possible.
- **Engaging youth** to spread the messages in their communities.
- **Participating in regional and country level risk communication and community engagement** working groups, aimed at providing joint programmatic guidance to countries, governments and media groups.
- Implementing and monitoring action plans for communicating effectively with the public.

Accelerated by: Youth Engagement

While evidence suggests that young people are less vulnerable to the virus than older age groups, it is clear that the pandemic is having a significant socio-economic impact on adolescents and youth. **UNFPA** is working at all levels to ensure that COVID-19 responses are inclusive of young people's specific needs and competencies, and to strengthen the capacity of youth networks to engage young people safely, effectively and meaningfully in COVID-19 prevention and response.

- **UNFPA** is leveraging the **Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action** to provide concrete operational guidance, 'COVID-19: With and for young people,' along with a complementary interagency webinar to facilitate exchange among young people, colleagues working in the field, and the global Compact membership.
- Under the umbrella of the **Compact**, **UNFPA** developed a [comprehensive hub](#) featuring resources about young people, COVID-19 and humanitarian action across sectors.
- **UNFPA** teamed up with software company **Prezi** to put risk communication and community engagement in the hands of young people through the video campaign **#YouthAgainstCOVID19**. **UNFPA** and partners developed content to teach young people what they can do to keep themselves and their friends, families, and communities safe and well during the pandemic. Episodes are released weekly through youth networks across all social media platforms in seven languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Lao and Uzbek), with a view to translate content into an additional 27 languages. Content is also being adapted for the radio and Whatsapp.
- In partnership with **WHO**, **UNFPA** has developed a [Q&A for adolescents and youth](#) related to COVID-19.
- **UNFPA** worked with partners to include young people, particularly adolescent girls, and analysis of their specific needs into a range of UN system reports, including the follow-up to 'Global Solidarity'; 'Gender and COVID-19'; the Secretary-General's Report on 'Children and COVID-19' and the UN Interagency Network on Youth Joint statement.

Technical Guidance

- [COVID-19 Technical Brief for Maternity Services](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage](#)
- [Implications of COVID-19 for Older Persons: Responding to the Pandemic](#)
- [UNFPA Supplies COVID-19 update - 16 April 2020](#)
- [Technical Brief on the Implications of COVID-19 on Census](#)
- [Adolescents and Young People & Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Gender Equality and Addressing Gender-based Violence \(GBV\) and Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Prevention, Protection and Response.](#)
- [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Modern Contraceptives and Other Medical Supply Needs, Including for COVID-19 Prevention, Protection and Response.](#)
- [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Maternal and Newborn Health & COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19: A Gender Lens](#)

External Media and Human Interest Stories

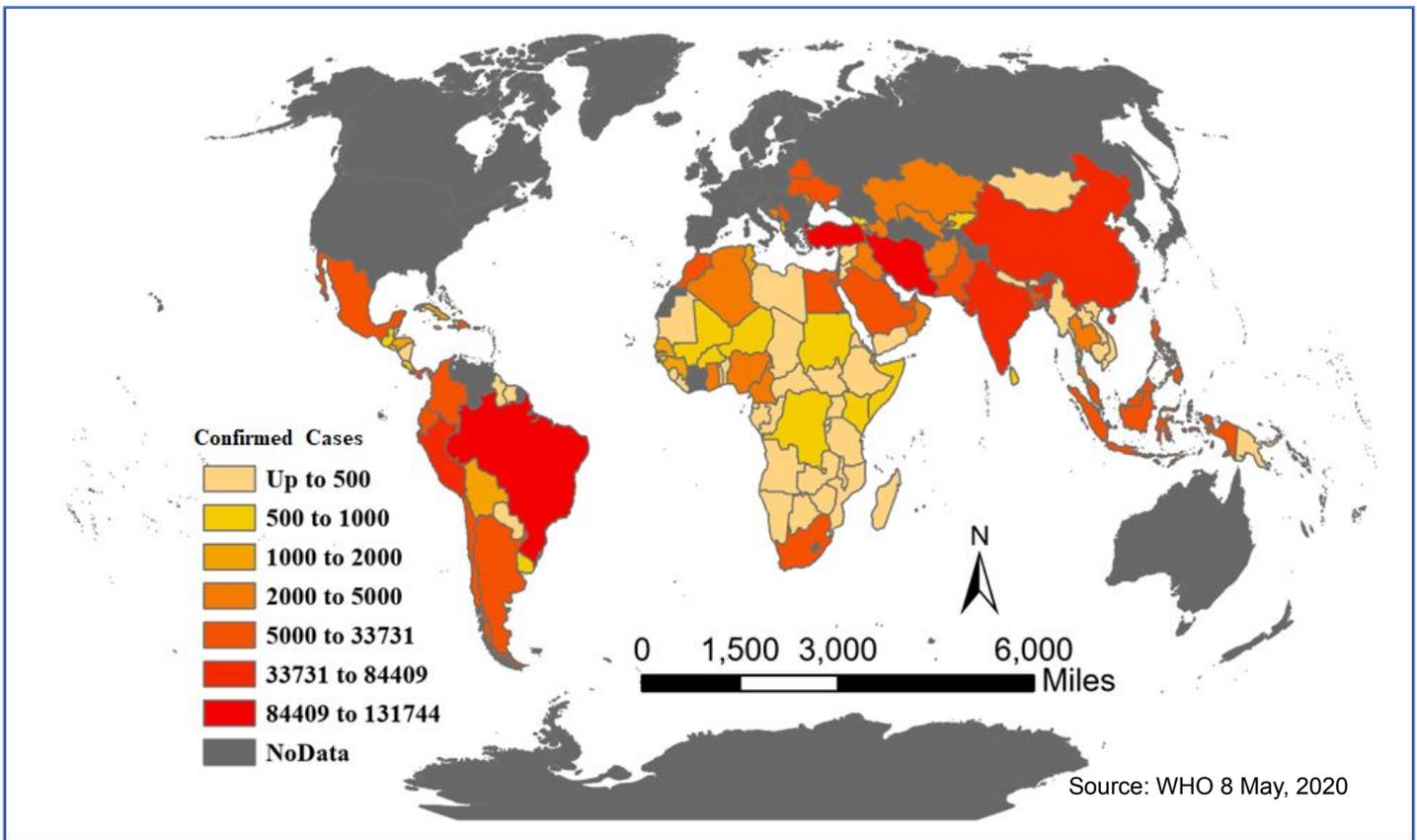
UNFPA is raising awareness and support for prioritising the needs and rights of women and girls and marginalized groups, and ensuring the continuity of sexual and reproductive health and rights and prevention and response to gender-based violence during COVID-19. Here are highlights of media outreach and human interest stories at the global level:

- Statement by UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem: [Women, girls, health workers must not be overlooked in global COVID-19 response](#)
- Statement by UNFPA Executive Director: [Protecting midwives to keep women and babies safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- Release of data projections on the impact of COVID-19 on women's health and rights, resulting in global media coverage: [Millions more cases of violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, unintended pregnancy expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [COVID-19 could lead to millions of unintended pregnancies, new UN-backed data reveals](#)
- UNFPA COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.unfpa.org/covid19>
- [Coronavirus pandemic threatens crises-ravaged communities, UN appeals for global support](#)
- [Learning from Ebola experience, Liberia deploys contact tracers to break COVID-19 transmission](#)
- [Imprisoned, quarantined women need hygiene supplies in El Salvador](#)
- [Ethiopia's midwives grapple with the COVID-19 while ensuring safe delivery](#)
- [Infection-control supplies delivered to Viet Nam maternal health facilities amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Delivering triplets in war-torn Yemen, under shadow of pandemic](#)
- [Bangladesh midwives continue saving lives as country responds to pandemic](#)
- [COVID-19 affects Ukraine health systems already compromised by conflict](#)
- [Gender-based violence spikes amid pandemic, shelters need support](#)

COVID-19 could lead to millions of unintended pregnancies, new UN-backed data reveals



Global Confirmed Cases (UNFPA programme countries)



Global Deaths (UNFPA programme countries)

