UNICEF’s education response to COVID-19

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Impact of school closures on children and learning

1. Learning crisis *deepening*...

2. Limited access for **the most marginalized**

3. More than a health crisis: learning, well-being and safety at risk
UNICEF’s global programmatic response
key intervention areas

1. Response coordination, efficient delivery and real-time monitoring
2. Safe school operations and risk communication
3. Continuity of learning
4. Scaling-up psychosocial, health, WASH and nutrition services
5. Opening up better schools
6. Disseminating evidence of what works
Guidance on COVID-19 Prevention & Control in Schools

✓ Basic facts
✓ Key messages and actions
✓ Environmental health focus
✓ Engages caregivers & children
✓ Suggestions for age-specific educational activities
Supplemental guidance

Operations
✓ Checklist - environmental health for schools
  o 2 pager – cleaning and disinfecting schools, with supply list
  o 2 pager – contextualizing + implementing guidance for schools
  o WASH & IPC materials, including for low-resource contexts

Learning
  o 2 pager – accelerated education
  o 2 pager – child friendly COVID-19 materials for integration into lessons

Inclusion & protection
✓ Checklist – supporting students for parents/caregivers
✓ Checklist – caring for self and others for students
  o 2 pager – resources for teaching and engaging specific populations
  o 2 pagers – MHPSS and CP considerations
The framework serves to **inform the decision-making process** on why, when and how to reopen schools

- Supports national preparations
- Guides the implementation process
- Contributes to overall public health and education planning processes
Reducing volume and proximity

**Volume**
- Progressive by grade
- Blended learning
- Limited # days per week

**Proximity**
- Staggered opening/closing
- No large gatherings (assemblies, recess, etc.)
- Eat in classroom
UNICEF is focused on strengthening schools for the response and beyond

• Reaching the most marginalized
• All children in school
• Blended and innovative models for learning
• Healthier schools
74% of countries plan to include at least one measure to support the most marginalized.

... 50% include actions to support girls

69% are increasing investment in remote learning

77% are implementing measures to support teachers and 75% are working on mitigation of learning loss

77% countries include at least one measure for children wellbeing and social protection
COVID-19 recovery: What’s next?
Open up better:
Global campaign on school re-opening

- **Reopen better schools** for every child to go (back) to school and learn & to have access to school-based health, hygiene, nutrition and PSS

- **Protect education budget** and secure allocations for most vulnerable

- **Reach out to media** to create momentum and ensure visibility

- **Sensitize public** through outreach and community engagement
Every Child Learns
Education Strategy (2019-2030)

➢ Digital learning
➢ Wellbeing of children
➢ Foundational literacy & numeracy
Resources?

- HAC Ed & CP: total **2020 requirement of > USD 511 M** (31.5% of the overall appeal of USD 1.6 B)
- UNICEF allocated catalytic funding to **152 countries and territories**
- Flexible funding to manage the education impacts of COVID-19 and to re-open schools with focus on the **humanitarian-development nexus; rapid action at scale**
- Flexible funding is allocated according to **greatest needs**
Key Resources

Guidance on COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools (AR, ENG, FR, SP)

Framework for Reopening Schools (AR, CH, ENG, FR, SP, PO)
https://www.unicef.org/documents/framework-reopening-schools

World Health Organization, Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 interim guidance: Consideration for Schools

Global Education Cluster https://educationcluster.net/COVID19

Thank you

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