Devastating Impacts and Risks of COVID-19 for Children

**GROWING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Additional life-saving assistance is required from the UN and the international community in places where COVID-19’s impact has compounded existing humanitarian crises.

- **100 MILLION** children and families prior to the pandemic
- **250 MILLION** children and families during the pandemic

Sources: (UNHCR) Global Humanitarian Response Plan July Update

**HEALTH & NUTRITION**

Disruptions to health systems could result in anywhere from 215,000 to **1.15 MILLION** additional child deaths in 118 low- and middle-income countries over the next six months.

Global immunisation coverage rates for DTP3 and measles are expected to drop from 85% pre-COVID-19 to less than 20%. Where they continue, some are impacted by movement restrictions as well as families’ economic hardships and fear of COVID-19 infection.

Without timely action, the number of children under five with severe acute malnutrition could rise by ~15% globally over the first 12 months of the crisis, with an increase of 20-25% in parts of Africa.

Sources: (The Lancet) Early estimates of the indirect effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and child mortality in low- and middle-income countries: a modelling study; (WHO) WHO and UNICEF warn of a decline in vaccinations during COVID-19

**EDUCATION**

School closures disrupted the education of nearly 1.6 BILLION LEARNERS. 23 countries maintain country-wide closures, affecting more than 224 MILLION LEARNERS or 12.8% of the world’s student population.

**24 MILLION CHILDREN**, including more than 11 million girls, may drop out of school.

**260 MILLION CHILDREN** are missing out on vital school meals programmes due to school closures.

Sources: (UNESCO) Dashboard: COVID-19 impact on Education; (WFP) Global Monitoring of School Meals During COVID-19

**POVERTY, FOOD INSECURITY & SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Globally, 1 in 6 children – **365 MILLION** – lived in extreme poverty before the pandemic. COVID-19 could push an additional 42-66 MILLION CHILDREN into extreme poverty.

COVID-19 may add between **83 and 132 MILLION PEOPLE** to the number of undernourished in 2020. Based on a recent assessment in nine Asian countries, World Vision estimates:

- **85 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS** may have no or limited food stocks;
- **110 MILLION CHILDREN** may be going hungry; and
- **8 MILLION CHILDREN** may be forced into child labour or begging in the region.

Sources: (World Bank) 365 million children live in extreme poverty (UNP); Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children (ILO, ILO; UNICEF, WFP & WHO); The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets; (World Vision) COVID-19 Aftershocks: Out of Time – As families’ incomes plummet, millions more children go hungry and are forced to work and beg; (ILO and UNICEF) Towards Universal Social Protection for Children: Achieving SDG 1.3

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

Up to **85 MILLION CHILDREN** may have been exposed to physical, sexual and/or emotional violence due to COVID-19.

13 MILLION ADDITIONAL CHILD MARRIAGES are predicted in the 10 years following the crisis, with at least 4 million girls married in the next two years alone.

Child protection services disrupted in 104 countries, seriously limiting access to prevention and response services for **1.8 BILLION CHILDREN**.

Online child sexual exploitation and violence are on the rise with estimates of risks doubling.

Sources: (World Vision) COVID-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm – Millions More Children at Risk of Violence during Lockdown and Into the New Normal; (UNHCR) Millions more cases of violence, child marriages, female genital mutilation, unprotected pregnancy expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic; (UNICEF) COVID-19 causes disruptions to child protection services in more than 100 countries, UNICEF survey finds; (WePROTECT Global Alliance) Intelligence Brief: Impact of COVID-19 on Online Child Sexual Exploitation

**CHALLENGES FACED BY THE DISPLACED**

- **79.5 MILLION PEOPLE** were displaced in 2019.
- 30-34 MILLION WERE CHILDREN

More than **80%** are in countries or territories affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition, and are ill-equipped to respond to COVID-19.

Sources: (UNHCR) Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019; (IASC) Global Humanitarian Response Plan July Update