**JR UNICEF, DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, POSITION PAPER**

**COMMITEE:** JR UNICEF

**AGENDA ITEM:** The effects of Covid-19 on children

**COUNTRY:** The Russian Federation

Covid-19 is an infectious disease that originated from China but later spread worldwide, turning into a pandemic. The first death due to this virus was reported on the 11th of January 2020. By the end of the month, the number of deaths had already reached 100. It was then when countries started getting concerned, as the virus was quickly spreading and speculations of it already having spread to 16 other nations due to the high travel rates of the Chinese New Year was overwhelming. After this, WHO declared the outbreak as a global emergency. Countries whose citizens have tested positive for the virus have undergone a period of quarantining. By the 28th of September 2020, deaths due to Covid-19 surpassed 1 million.

This period of quarantining and sickness has affected many aspects of our lives (economy, ecology, mental/physical well-being...). One of the aspects that was particularly effected was the mental health of children and adolescents. Many were deprived of their social life and education while some also experienced domestic and sexual abuse, as well as poverty. Adolescents have developed mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety. Studies also show that suicide rates amongst minors have gone up drastically, as well as the rates for drug and alcohol use. The Russian Federation’s youth was also scarred by this period and therefore we think that it is absolutely necessary we come up with solutions to help children worldwide.