**JR UNICEF, DELEGATE OF COMOROS, POSITION PAPER**

**COMMITEE:** JR UNICEF

**STATE:** Comoros

**AGENDA ITEM:** Impact of Covid-19 on Children

**COVID-19 OVERALL**

As we all know, Covid-19 is a disease that was first seen in Wuhan, China in December 2019. After long researches, the scientists discovered that the coronavirus was most probably caused by the market called Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market that sold live animals, from which the first cases of Covid-19 had purchased goods. Although the authorities tried to contain the situation there, they couldn’t avoid the virus to spread worldwide because of the high travel rates from China. On 30 January 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and stated that this extraordinary event was a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As the virus circulates in the air and in the surfaces, a quarantine was necessary for people to stay safe and protect themselves from the virus. This murderous infection has caused millions of people to lose their lives in these 2 years and 6 months, making it the deadliest virus in the history.

During this period of chaos, we all have been dealing with negative aspects of the coronavirus (ex: economy, physical and mental health) however, children were affected on a larger scale since they weren’t as exposed to such circumstances previously as adults. One of the important subjects that got affected was the children’s mental health as they weren’t able to leave their houses because of the quarantine. They were forced to recess their social life and some fell victims of domestic violence and abuse due to staying at home. Some weren’t able to continue their education whereas some had to deal with the loss of their loved ones because of Covid-19. Their mental health conditions led to their physical health being at stake. The children started showing symptoms of anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts.

As for Comoros, we have been very careful not to let the virus take us down, our total cases being 8,126 and our total deaths 160. We are trying to be of help to our citizens and the people who are in need. We are currently trying to find solutions for the problems we are facing with the help of our alliances.

**SOLUTIONS**

1. **For the children that try to cope with mental illnesses there should be therapy.**

The children’s mental health was affected in the years of Covid-19 as they couldn’t contact their friends or had to go through mental or physical abuse that was a negative result of staying at home. When there was no pandemic, the teachers could detect the students who were struggling and reassure them in some ways or even guide them to therapy. But in these three years the children couldn’t talk to the teachers or adults that can help and developed mental illnesses. Since face-to-face education has started, the teachers will play an important role in spotting the students that are having troubles. The therapy or medication should be accessible to children and low-priced for the ones that doesn’t have the opportunities.

1. **Every student should continue their education.**

In the first year of the pandemic, the sudden hit of the quarantine caused every educational institution to close and search for ways to continue in the education of the students. It is a necessity as the next generations are our future and hope. We soon discovered the method of online teaching but it wasn’t as efficient as face-to-face learning because, in poor countries, many of the children had difficulties finding Internet and when they did, finding a way to participate in the online classes. They mostly didn’t own an electronic device or didn’t have the money to buy one, therefore couldn’t continue their education when the other students could. In the times that we can learn face-to-face they are behind in their education and can’t carry on with the topics they are obligated to learn because they couldn’t receive the education they were supposed to. For the students that are behind, the government should provide the information and technical devices for further online teaching.