Committee: Junior UNICEF

State: France

Agenda: Impact of Covid-19 on children

At the end of 2019, the virus called Covid-19 emerged. The homeland of this virus is the city of Wuhan in the country of China.

In our country, namely in France, the first Covid-19 case was detected on January 24, 2020, and the first Covid-19 death was detected in Paris on February 14, 2020. We made it mandatory to wear masks without wasting time and announced the quarantine. We asked those coming from outside of Europe to have a Covid-19 test within 72 hours. We have made it mandatory for individuals returning from abroad to quarantine themselves at home for the next 14 days.

The virus was spreading so fast but we struggled and tried to reduce the effect of the virus, we accelerated the vaccine studies and we said that France will send a new type of (Covid-19) vaccine to developing countries through the global vaccine mechanism, the Global Access Program for Covid-19 Vaccines (COVAX), and is the first European Union (EU) member to do so country declared.

Covid-19 has of course also affected education but for the first 7 months, we continued face-to-face education because we did not want children to be cut off from social life. Because we know that if children can't go to school, they become antisocial and they will become computer addicted, so none of us want that. But we never let our guard down; In the lessons, the windows were always open, ventilation was provided, everyone was wearing the mask in the right way and officials from the Ministry of Health were visiting the schools and telling children what Covid-19 was and how to care about hygiene. But the virus was mutating and kept blocking us.

For this reason, we declared a strict quarantine due to the record number of cases, and children began to disconnect from social life and they got depressed because they were bored at home. However, we allowed the children to go out at certain periods and as France, we switched to online education on April 8, 2021 and we opened sites for them to do research on the internet and donated books, computers, tablets and internet to the poor or underprivileged families. In this way, the children did not fall behind from their lessons.

France started vaccinating children aged 5-11 on 22 December 2021 because the variant called Omicron was spreading much faster than before. Our Minister of Health, Olivier Veran, announced that appointments for this age group were open from that day.

When the vaccination worked and the cases decreased, we reopened the schools for the face-to-face education on September 6, 2021. Since then we have continued to keep schools open because, 83.4% of our citizens had at least one dose of vaccination, 78.4% of them were vaccinated completely. On March 14, 2022, the masks were completely removed from our lives. As France, thanks to vaccine donations from European countries we finally defeated the virus with a success.

Our solutions during the Covid-19 period are to give importance to vaccination, increasing the number of vaccines and age groups related to it, always helping other countries and keeping children in safe.