Committee: Jr Unicef

Topic : Impact of Covid-19 on children

Country: Belgium

The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The novel virus was first identified from an outbreak in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention.

The COVID‑19 pandemic is harming health, social and material well-being of children worldwide, with the poorest children, including homeless children and children in detention, hit hardest. School closures, social distancing and confinement increase the risk of poor nutrition among children, their exposure to domestic violence, increase their anxiety and stress, and reduce access to vital family and care services.

In 2020 Belgium has confirmed the first case of the new coronavirus local media reported February 3, 2020. The patient is one of nine Belgian citizens who were evacuated from Wuhan, China. The repatriated were immediately quarantined and tested for coronavirus in a military hospital close to Brussels.

After the announcement of the agreed measures to control the further spread of the coronavirus in Belgium, these measures came into force on Wednesday from 12:00 noon to April 5.

The [COVID-19 pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic) in Belgium has resulted in approximately 4 million confirmed cases of [COVID-19](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19) and about 30 thousand deaths. Almost one in five new Covid-19 infections are detected in children and teenagers in Belgium. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) experience in Belgium has been very similar to that in other European countries. Two features, however, are special. First, Belgium has ranked at the top in many published league tables on the number of COVID-19 infections and on the mortality per capita. The second feature which is typical for Belgium: its complex institutions and the particular political situation of a minority government at the time of a major public health crisis.

Thus, we believe that we have some possible solutions to offer that can help promote to children’s health, psychologic condition and educational opportunities. We must rebuild our social, political and economic systems in ways that empower children and protect us all.

**1)The Effect COVID-19 Has on Mental Health**

There were negative changes in children’s daily habits of life, sleep patterns, eating patterns, clothing and removal behaviors, and positive changes in cleaning habits. Regarding moods, there was an increase in anxiety levels, anger levels and fear levels, and happiness levels decreased. Regarding social relations, their relationships with mother, father and siblings changed negatively (reactive, withdrawn, under-communicating, exhibiting variable behaviors, etc.) and they missed their teachers. Thus, the development of crisis-oriented psychosocial support services were provided. We aim to take a better account of children’s best interests and listen to their voices.

**2)** **The Inaccessibility and Poor Quality of Online Education**

In relation to kids’ behavior towards distance education, it has been determined that the majority of them participate in distance education. However, it has been determined that the vast majority of children are not accustomed to distance education enough, more than half have poor learning quality, and half have problems doing homework.

* Organizing supportive trainings for families in schools so that children can adapt to the aftermath of the epidemic should be considered.
* Adaptation of children to school by developing intervention programs by guidance units in schools, it should contribute to solving problems such as coping with anxiety, anger management, conflict resolution.
* We should homogenize digital learning between the different school systems and make sure everyone has access to all the tools needed for her/his type of learning for future shocks.

Immediate government measures need to ensure that children have access to good food, receive protection against child abuse and neglect, have continued access to child physical and mental health services, and can navigate safely on the internet. Policies also need to support parental employment since it is key to fighting child poverty.

To sum up, we must empower children at all levels, enable their voices to be heard with your cooperation dear delegates. Our support and cooperation will lead us to overcome this huge challenge as one humanity. We are one for dear life, one for a healthier and safer tomorrow, one for children!