**Committee:** Jr Unicef

**State:** Slovakia

**Agenda:** Impact of Covid-19 on children

Covid-19 first appeared in China. It was declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The pandemic has almost ended but we can still see its damaging effects on children. Many children could not join their online classes because they did not have devices such as laptops or tablets, they needed to do so. Some children lost their families and friends. Moreover, some of their family members lost their jobs and did not earn enough money to take care of them. These children had to live under hard circumstances. Some got Covid-19 and became sick. Some of the children who got Covid-19 could not get the treatment they needed. As a result, Covid-19 caused children to be uneducated, poor, unhealthy and feel unsafe.

In Slovakia; schools were closed for more than half a year and 128.000 children could not join online classes. The schools are open now but the negative effects can still be seen. Children who did not get online education are having a hard time catching up with their classmates and understanding the topics that are being taught because they are lacking knowledge from previous grades. Also, 16 percent of the population are at risk of poverty in Slovakia. Poverty increased since Covid-19 started due to adults losing their jobs because of a weak developing business environment. Some children cannot get the care and required standard of living they need due to their family’s poverty.

We believe that children deserve to live under fair, good and equal circumstances. To prevent the negative effects of the pandemic, we should detect the children who experience problems caused by the global pandemic and get them the help their families and themselves need. To support children who could not get online education, we should detect them and provide extra lessons to help them catch up with their classmates. These lessons can be given by community learning centers that we can set up in neighbourhoods. To deal with the problem of increased poverty we can take measures to support families in need. Unemployed citizens need to be trained or taught new skills so that they can get new jobs and benefit from a new career. Providing parents with the skills and training to find employment, will certainly increase their children’s standard of living. We think it is time to join our power and promote cooperation more effectively.