State: Germany

Committee: Junior UNICEF

Agenda: Impact of Covid-19 on Children

The new coronavirus, known as Covid-19, was first encountered in November 2019 and has affected more than 425,000 people in more than 150 countries worldwide, causing more than 18,000 deaths.

In Germany, the first case of COVID-19 was recorded on January 27, 2020 in the state of Bavaria. Daily case numbers began to decline after April 8, but rose sharply again in October. As of January 30, 2021, 2,207,393 cases have been reported, with 56,286 deaths and approximately 1,930,592 recoveries.

The coronavirus pandemic and all measures taken to prevent the spread of infection have led to a situation where many childcare facilities and schools are temporarily unable to perform their educational duties. Others were able to comply with this authority only to a very limited extent. A reliable technological and organizational infrastructure that can compensate for the complete closure of educational institutions does not yet exist in Germany. That is why children and adolescents, their families and educational professionals are particularly affected by the current crisis.

To contain the COVID-19 pandemic, childcare facilities and schools around the world were closed in spring 2020. For several months, parents had to reorganise the care of their children, which has posed new challenges for reconciling work and family.

However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, long term negotiation processes based on previously stable opportunity structures, economic resources, and individual work-care norms might have lost importance. Instead, we expect parental working conditions to play a particularly important role for care-arrangements in families during the pandemic. In particular, parents working in ‘system-relevant occupations’ faced a particular challenge.

In Europe, where 50 percent of Covid-19-related deaths occur, vaccination of children is considered a very important part of the fight against the epidemic. Several countries in Europe have started preparations after the European Medicines Agency approved the Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11 in recent weeks.

Covid-19 is spreading rapidly in children. Currently, children account for the majority of Covid-19 cases in Germany and the Netherlands. But each country takes a different approach when it comes to vaccinating children. While some countries are making efforts to make vaccination a happy event, some countries are taking it slow to take this step, which they find "risky".