



**Ahlström Collective Impact and
UNICEF's Global Covid-19 response:
Key Results 2020**

Ahlström
COLLECTIVE IMPACT

for

unicef





Protecting children from the impact of coronavirus

In January 2020, when WHO first announced a case of Covid-19-related pneumonia, nobody could quite predict the force at which it would disrupt the lives of families and children globally. The coronavirus pandemic is of a scale most people alive today have never seen. Worldwide, the outbreak is claiming lives and livelihoods as health systems buckle, education is disrupted and families struggle to stay afloat.

Children and their caretakers in vulnerable countries are particularly dependent on basic health, nutrition and education services. Disruptions to society have thus had a heavy impact on children: on their safety, their well-being, their future. As these services were compromised, UNICEF took action to prevent this health crisis turning into a child rights crisis.

UNICEF in Action: Facts over Fear

With 75 years of expertise in emergencies and rapid response, UNICEF was immediately present, promoting facts over fear and working with governments in their efforts to

secure education, basic services and healthcare, despite the pandemic.

As part of the global Covid-19 response, UNICEF is actively supporting vulnerable families and children in 144 countries by providing health, nutrition, education, child protection, access to clean water and hygiene supplies as well as social protection services. Thanks to this, millions of people have been able to access essential services and continue their education.

In 2020, Ahlström Collective Impact focused on supporting children's wellbeing and health within the pandemic with an investment of 240 000 euro, responding to UNICEF's appeal of USD 1,6 billion to support its humanitarian response.

This report summarises some of the key results of the UNICEF global Covid-19 2020 programme response, with the emphasis on education and basic services, and presents some illustrative results achieved with the Ahlström Collective Impact investment.

Key results: Education

Helping 301 million children to learn

The pandemic caused the largest disruption in education in history so far. Closures of schools impacted up to 99 % of student population in low and lower-middle income countries. Currently, 7,6 million girls are at risk of not returning to school.

To safeguard children's future, we must safeguard their education. As schools shut down, UNICEF and partners advocated that education was a priority for children.

Education programmes were rolled out through multiple means ranging from high-techs, such as online platforms and apps, to low-tech modalities such as TV, radio, SMS and printed materials. Two-thirds of the world's school-age children do not have internet connection in their homes.

What we achieved by the end of 2020



UNICEF supported virtual and home-based education programmes benefiting 301 million children – of whom 147 million girls.



UNICEF supported the reopening of 450,000 schools through the provision of water, hygiene and sanitation stations, behavioral messages and help in the implementation of national protocols for Covid-19 infection prevention.



Examples of results achieved with a donation of 240,000 euro*



Boosting handwashing facilities for 1 million children in 5,000 schools across the country in Cuba, *and*



Providing 90,000 school children access to remote learning programmes when schools were disrupted in Guinea-Bissau, *and*



Reaching 350,000 students with home-based learning through radio in Liberia, *and*



Supporting the development of learning materials for 2,7 million children during school closures in Brazil, *and*



Producing learning material videos broadcasted on TV to 240,000 preschool aged children in Georgia.

**Calculated based on the total donation and price examples of UNICEF*



Key results: Access to

basic services and protection

Ensured access to health, clean water and protection

The pandemic increased poverty and caused a considerable decline in the numbers of people accessing basic services, such as primary health and nutrition care, clean water, child protection, social services and basic education. To protect the people most affected by the socio-economic consequences of the crisis, it is essential to ensure the continuity of these basic services. UNICEF and partners worked throughout 2020 to maintain and adapt essential service coverage and also supported governments in expanding their social protection programmes, reaching 47 million households. UNICEF also worked to strengthen interventions that reached communities with life-saving information and supplies.

What we achieved by the end of 2020



3 billion people, including 810 million children, were reached with Covid-19 messaging.



106 million people, of whom 58 million children, received access to clean water and sanitation services.



92 million women and children were reached with essential health care services.

Examples of results achieved with a donation of 240,000 euro*



Reaching 1 million people with urgent health and hygiene messaging through social media in Costa Rica, *and*



Providing crucial services to children to protect them from abuse and violence while not at school in Chad, *and*



Providing 2,000 health centers with hygiene supplies in Sri Lanka, *and*



Providing 50 healthcare facilities with supplies of water and sanitation equipment in Nepal, *and*



Training 60 social workers to provide mental first aid to families affected by the virus in Jamaica.

**Calculated based on the total donation and price examples of UNICEF*



- In Burundi, UNICEF made handwashing accessible for millions by supporting the local soap production, cutting the price of a soap bar in half.

"We know that washing hands with soap is a really good way of protecting ourselves against the spread of Covid-19. Now we can afford to buy soap and we feel safe," said Cécile, a mother of two, in the capital Bujumbura.

- In Bangladesh, Ripa, 13, received individual support from his teacher by mobile phone as part of UNICEF's Ability Based Accelerated Learning programme, despite schools being closed.

"For me, education is as important as my mother's love. I cannot do without the two. I want to be a teacher when I grow up."



Delivering Covid-19 vaccines around the world

Children are safe when everyone they rely on is safe

In 2020, UNICEF became the lead procurer of vaccines through the COVAX facility. Promoting vaccine equity COVAX aims to procure 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines for low and lower middle-income economies by the end of 2021.

COVAX is the largest vaccine supply and procurement effort in history. As the largest single vaccine buyer in the world, UNICEF offers unique expertise in the procurement and logistics needed for the operation. Vaccine deliveries started in February 2021.



Powerful together - we never give up

The pandemic continues to challenge the lives of children around the world. As the world's leading organisation for children, UNICEF brings field-tested expertise, a worldwide network and a commitment to make every dollar count. And we never give up.

None of the work UNICEF does would be possible without the generous contributions by our public and private donors. We hope the results presented illustrate how powerful we are when working together.

Ahlström Collective Impact has contributed to the results UNICEF achieved in the Covid-19 context in 2020, benefiting millions of children and families. Thank you!