Highlight

Situation
- As of 28 June, Chile has 271,420 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 6,089 death. It is in its 3rd place with its cases in Latin America, following Brazil and Peru, and followed by Mexico and Colombia. When compared with the death toll, Chile is significantly lower than that of countries in the region.
- According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard, as of 30 June, Chile is at 4th place in the world and the highest in the region for confirmed cases per 1 million population (14,438), followed by Peru (11th place, 8,474).
- The entire Greater Santiago is under lockdown since 16 May.
- ECLAC projects that poverty in Chile could reach 13.7% (1 million additional people) and OECD estimates that three months without income would lead to more than half of the population in Chile at risk of falling into poverty.

UNICEF Response
- UNICEF donated PPE for 5,000 institutionalized children of SENAME to minimize COVID-19 infections, in partnership with a NGO Colunga Foundation.
- UNICEF is broadcasting story-telling of 12 Chilean children’s stories via radio for children in partnership with ADN radio to provide psychosocial support and promote family activities, reaching the furthest stretch of Chile.
- UNICEF is providing psychosocial support in a fun way for 138,000 children, including over 2,100 institutionalized children of SENAME, via YouTube with the project “My Home, My Field,” in partnership with an NGO Futbol Más.
- Sentenced mothers with children left prison under New Law to serve the rest of their sentences at home to minimize COVID-19 infections, thanks to UNICEF’s continued advocacy efforts during the past 10 years.
- UNICEF is promoting CRB with the biggest mining company in Chile, Codelco, with parenting and active fatherhood in the predominantly male-industry. Measures had been taken to minimize risks for infecting their children with COVID-19 by adjusting their shift system.

Situation in Numbers
- 6,089 COVID-19 deaths (Epidemiology Report #29 COVID-19, 28 June, 2020, Ministry of Health)
- 3,600,000 children with all schools closed in the country since 18 March. (Ministry of Education, https://www.mineduc.cl/mineduc-conforma-grupo-de-trabajo-para-abordar-desercion-escolar/)
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Chile’s COVID-19 Response Plan is fully funded at the time of writing, thanks to ever-challenging but thriving in-country PFP efforts, which has raised from the Chilean public over $60,000 to respond to this emergency, as well as EMPOS contribution.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-country private sector partnerships have been activated. To date, UNICEF has facilitated the donation of 300 sim cards to the SENAME residential centres, to facilitate the internet connection to the children separated of their families, by a telecommunications company WOM, and the donation of over 5,000 pieces of warm clothes for shelters for the street people with H&M.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

UNICEF donates PPE to SEMAME institutionalized children
UNICEF donated PPE to institutionalized children of SENAME to minimize the COVID-19 infections. UNICEF, in partnership with NGO Colunga Foundation and in coordination with Ministry of Social Development and Families, donated 49,000 three-fold masks, 47,000 N95 masks, 177 latex glove boxes, 730 liters of alcohol gel, 416 gown with sleeves, and 1,000 face shields. The donation, worth US$256,000, reached 5,000 institutionalized children and adolescents and 6,000 caregivers in 270 residential centers and juvenile justice centers throughout the country for 3 months.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

Sentenced Mothers with Children will Leave Prison under New Law
On April 16, 2020, the Government of Chile passed a penal justice reform allowing sentenced mothers finish their prison terms at home with their young children. This commutation seeks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside prisons. As an immediate result, 20 women who were either pregnant or with children under the age of two, and meet defined criteria, left prisons and now are serving the rest of their sentences at home. This measure will have a significant impact on the development and well-being of these children who will be able to grow up with their families at home, and not inside a prison.

The passing of this law sets a milestone in UNICEF’s continued advocacy efforts during the past ten years. Since many children of imprisoned mothers were living with their relatives during their prison time, UNICEF has provided evidence about children’s benefits of staying with their mothers, which led to the successful overturning of the practice of separating children over 9 months of age from their imprisoned mothers. Since 2019, UNICEF strengthened its advocacy efforts for commutation of imprisoned mothers, citing the negative emotional and social impacts separation has on children.

While it is only effective during the current COVID-19 global outbreak, this law sets a stage for wider penal justice reforms seeking to permanently ban mothers with young children under two serving time in prisons. This also sets an important precedent on how UNICEF can successfully link humanitarian and development work.

Read the complete text (in Spanish) of the Law 21.228 allowing the commutation of sentence.

“My Home, My Field”: have fun with psychosocial support
Through a project “My Home, My Field,” in partnership with an NGO Futbol Más, UNICEF is providing psychosocial support for children, but in a fun way. Healthy daily routine is promoted through fun physical activities for children of 6-14 years old, their families and adults responsible for their care in situations of confinement and physical distancing. 14 short videos guide children to exercise with small space at home, using simple techniques with a
soccer ball (examples: https://insight.unicef.org/apps01/perfasmnt/Pages/Reports%20COAR.aspx, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyWfenosLS8). Messages also include information about how to recognize their own feelings and moods, socio-sports activities, hygiene measures, prevention of COVID-19, and recommendations for a balanced diet.

“My Home, My Field” has reached 138,000 children and adolescents via YouTube, SNS, including 2,122 children in 223 SENAME residential centers, and starting its broadcast nationally on TV Educa, together with contents provided by Ministry of Education. UNICEF Mexico has joined the project.

Children in residential care centers receive focused interventions, through their first-line responders equipped guidelines for recommendations to protect children, and how to support children for the psychosocial support tools and mutual care, all shared via WhatsApp.

Story telling at Home: Stories to See and Listen
UNICEF is broadcasting “Cuenta Cuentos” (story-telling in Spanish) via radio for children, in partnership with a family-based Mori-FamFest Theater, Radio AND, and Amanuta publishing house. Families and children tune into Radio AND twice a day, 10 minutes each before lunch and after dinner to listen to Chilean children’s stories. Stories are also available on YouTube with short videos with sign language. A project “At home: Stories to See and Listen” responds to the needs to create activities that the whole family can enjoy together, discuss about it, and provide a sense of joy and normalcy for children during confinement under the COVID-19. 12 stories, such as the Princess Carrot, Something Big, The Boy and the Whale, Adela and her Missing Socks, with a simple question at the end for children to reflect and think, are also widely disseminated through social networks and web pages.

While the radio programmes seemed out-of-fashion and somewhat counterintuitive in this internet era, these Chilean children stories have reached to the furthest stretch of the country. Most of the schools’ learning materials are available online, but the access to internet is not universal in Chile. The poorest children are left behind for not having computers/tablets or access to internet. The radio AND interviewed a teacher in a small Quinchao island of the Chilean Patagonia, in Chiloé. The teacher Ramón Contreras uses the story-telling in his virtual classrooms, as he finds them “dynamic and short, and it facilitates children to get into reading.” Finding ways to reach children via audio is essential now when “the school reaches out to children, and not the other way around,” as not all 900 students in rural school have access to the internet. “Radio has great out-reach, here the radio has always been an education element since 1960s.”

See some of the stories: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E77NzAemTU, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c7fMAW4oAk.

Child Rights and Business: Active fatherhood for the miners
Mining is the main economic activity in Chile that employs 250,000 people, most of them being men. Historically, the men of this industry are often absent from their parenting responsibilities with their children, partly because of their style of work in shifts: 7 days working and 4 days at home, for example. UNICEF studied the impacts of shift work on active parenting and its effects on children in 2019, and made recommendations to the mining industry to mitigate its negative impacts. With its 90% of workers being men, it brings UNICEF an enormous opportunity to introduce and highlight the co-responsibility in parenting and active fatherhood in the new way of life and work.

Under the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF Chile continues to support the National Copper Corporation of Chile (Codelco)’s effort to support its workers with the upbringing of their children, as a part of Child Rights and Business (CRB). The company reduced the frequency of shift change to reduce the chances of COVID-19 infections (15 days work and 15 days home), and in its process of finding ways to support the workers’ responsibilities as fathers. Since the onset of the health crisis, 7 fact sheets have been developed for their phone applications on child protection and prevention of domestic violence, and UNICEF participated in their Facebook Live talks on parenting with over 6,300 workers’ participation. Reactions from the workers suggest that they feel unsure about what to do as fathers, if they are doing it right, and looking for reassurance.

Codelgo is the main copper mining company in Chile with 16,000 workers, operating in five regions of the country. Working with Codelco opens doors to the mining industry in the country to promote CRB, and the initiative is expected to continue in post COVID-19 context.
Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Chile increased its presence in SNS since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF Chile’s Facebook’s followers has increased since December by 7% to reach 66,000, 3% for Twitter with 26,300 followers, and Instagram account which opened in January 2020 to reach 7,200 followers. The measurement of the first half of June highlights to have reached 1,600,000 users on Facebook, 191,675 accounts on Instagram, and 65,000 views on Twitter, in the last fortnight of June.

Since April, UNICEF Chile appears as one of the “Recognised Health Organisations” of Facebook’s COVID-19 Information Centre, together with MOH and WHO.

See Human Interest Stories in UNICEF Chile Homepage in Spanish:
- “We are the generation of great changes, and these changes require empathy and respect,” Julieta Martinez, creator of the movement of young people and teenagers called Tremendas, tells us how she’s coping with social distancing and the precautions that she and her family have taken due to coronavirus. [https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/ICON/SitePages/Youth-activist-inspires-peers-to-advocate-for-change.aspx](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/ICON/SitePages/Youth-activist-inspires-peers-to-advocate-for-change.aspx)

Next SitRep: 30 July, 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: [www.unicef.org/lac](http://www.unicef.org/lac)
UNICEF LAC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uniceflac](http://www.facebook.com/uniceflac)

Who to contact for further information:
- Paolo Mefalopulos, Representative, UNICEF Chile, Email: pmefalopulos@unicef.org
- Sayo Aoki, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Chile, Email: saoki@unicef.org
- Francisca Palma, Communications Specialist, UNICEF Chile, Email: fpalma@unicef.org