Strategic repositioning of the UNICEF COVID-19 response and the way forward

Sanjay Wijesekera
Director, Programme Division

UNICEF Executive Board
Informal briefing
21 January 2021
1. UNICEF’s mandate and commitment to stay and deliver for children everywhere.

2. Response showed UNICEF’s operational and programmatic agility and adaptability.

3. UNICEF’s COVID-19 response goes beyond interventions that fit within the scope of immediate response to humanitarian needs.
Health and nutrition

- Adapted programme delivery, protocols and guidance to support continuity of services
- Reimagined health through digital solutions and virtual care and support
- Invested in community-based solutions
- Co-leading ACT-A Group on country readiness and vaccine roll-out
Education

- Invested in digital and remote home-base learning

- Supported countries in their policy development and planning processes for reopening schools, including the Framework with UNESCO, World Bank, WFP and UNHCR

- Expanded Learning Passport initiative to deliver educational content online in national languages to learners
Child protection

- Adapted violence against children and women programmes to keep delivering services through on-line platforms

- Expanded support to mental health through safe and remote online-services and referral systems

- Coordinated cross-sectoral support to parents and caregivers to cope with the pandemic and help children during the crisis
WASH

- Developed sustainable solutions for access to services and supplies
- Encouraged and promoted healthy and safe behaviours on hygiene, including the Hand Hygiene for All with WHO
- Supported schools, health care and communities with WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC)
Social policy

- Supported expansions of social protection programmes and social assistance to respond to multiple vulnerabilities and risks

- Worked with partners on data, evidence and analysis to:
  - make visible the consequences of economic and fiscal policies on children
  - make the investment case for protecting social spending
Programming towards 2030: Reflections

• Mobilizing global action for every child everywhere

• Investing in shock-resilient families, communities and systems

• Digital opportunities

• Agile and adaptive programmes
Thank You

UNICEF Executive Board - Informal briefing
Responding to the COVID-19 emergency and the way forward for programmes