Child survival, health and well-being in the context of COVID-19
Despite progress, child survival remains a challenge

5.2 million deaths of children under 5 in 2019 (i.e., 14,000 deaths every day)

- Neonatal deaths: 2.4 million (47%)
- Infant deaths: 1.5 million (28%)
- Child deaths (1–4 years): 1.3 million (25%)
- Stillbirths (~2.0 million)

5.2 million deaths of children under 5 in 2019 (i.e., 14,000 deaths every day)

Under-five mortality rate

Deaths per 1,000 live births

- 0 - 12
- 12 - 25
- 25 - 40
- 40 - 75
- 75 - 100
- 100 - 150
- 150 and above
- No data

Source: Levels & Trends in Child Mortality 2020, UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

2 | UNICEF Executive Board – 2021 first regular session – Item 5 (a): Country programme documents
The burden of disease in children is highest in low/low-middle-income countries; where government health spending is low, out-of-pocket spending is high and development assistance is important.
Disruptions in essential health services due to COVID-19 are threatening decades of progress

Global under-five mortality rates and deaths, 1990–2019, and scenario-based projections using the LiST model for 2020

Though the real impact is still not clear without available data, it is estimated that in just one year under a severe scenario (39.3–51.9% disruptions in health services and 50% increase in wasting), there could be more than 2 million additional deaths (45% increase) of children under five – moving us back on the curve by a decade

How UNICEF is responding to health in the context of COVID-19…

1. Safeguard UNICEF’s core programmes: maximize access to safe essential health & nutrition services, safe schools, immunization, child protection, emergencies and more


3. Community engagement, protect health workers, prepare supply chains, and country preparedness

4. Access to testing, built on community-level antigen and antibody testing; country preparedness, training

5. Cross-cutting: Strong in-country health systems, training and in-country support, community engagement, communication & information
Progress on SDG3 on health and well-being is at risk...
UNICEF 2016–30 Health Strategy Vision:

A world where no child dies from a preventable cause and all children reach their full potential in health and well-being

This takes:

Universal health coverage for every child

Which requires:

**Primary health care**

UNICEF strengthens primary health care through the following approaches:

1. Addressing inequities in health outcomes to accelerate coverage, leaving no one behind
2. Strengthening health systems, including community health [financing, workforce, data and digital health, supply chains, implementation research]
3. Promoting integrated packages of care across the life course [MNCH, nutrition, immunization, HIV, ECD, adolescent health, disabilities, NCDs, injuries, env. health]
4. Ensuring multisectoral programmes and implementation [WASH, social protection, education – including for school health, child protection]
5. Supporting emergency preparedness and resilience [Risk-informed programming for humanitarian situations, including public health emergencies]

**UNICEF’s actions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocate for every child’s right to health</th>
<th>Influence government policies</th>
<th>Strengthen service delivery</th>
<th>Empower communities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Support data capture, evidence generation and use</td>
<td>• Support evidence-based policymaking and financing for primary health care</td>
<td>• Build capacity of management and health providers</td>
<td>• Engage for social and behaviour change</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Engage with partners, including private sector</td>
<td>• Promote scale-up of effective interventions and innovations</td>
<td>• Support programmes, including service provision, in particular at the community level and in emergencies</td>
<td>• Generate demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expand available resources</td>
<td>• UN working together</td>
<td>• Strengthen health workforce and supply chain systems for primary health care</td>
<td>• Strengthen accountability</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Share knowledge and promote South-South exchange</td>
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Thank you!