

LACRO COVID-19 EDUCATION RESPONSE: UPDATE 31

ANNUAL SUMMARY: ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

[Released on December 15, 2021]

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I. INTRODUCTION

As of December 16, 12 countries have fully reopened schools, 19 are partially closed and 3 are completely closed. Three countries are on academic recess. Although the process of reopening schools continues to make progress in the region, 60 million children and adolescents are still affected by total and partial school closures, with an average of 162 school days without classes between March 2020 and early December of this year.

This latest report (Update 31) for the year 2021 provides an overview of the main progress and challenges of each country and territory in the Latin America and Caribbean region in their education response to COVID-19. The report also includes a summary of the next steps to advance the school reopening process.



II. REOPENING OF SCHOOLS' MAP

This report uses UNESCO's definition of school closures. Schools are considered:

- **"Fully closed"** when the closures affect most or all the schoolchildren enrolled at pre-primary, primary, lower, and upper secondary levels.
- **"Partially closed"** refer to situations in which schools are either closed in some of a country's administrative units, for some grade levels, or are operating with limited capacity.
- **"Fully open"** means that classes are held in-person for all schoolchildren and at all grade levels.

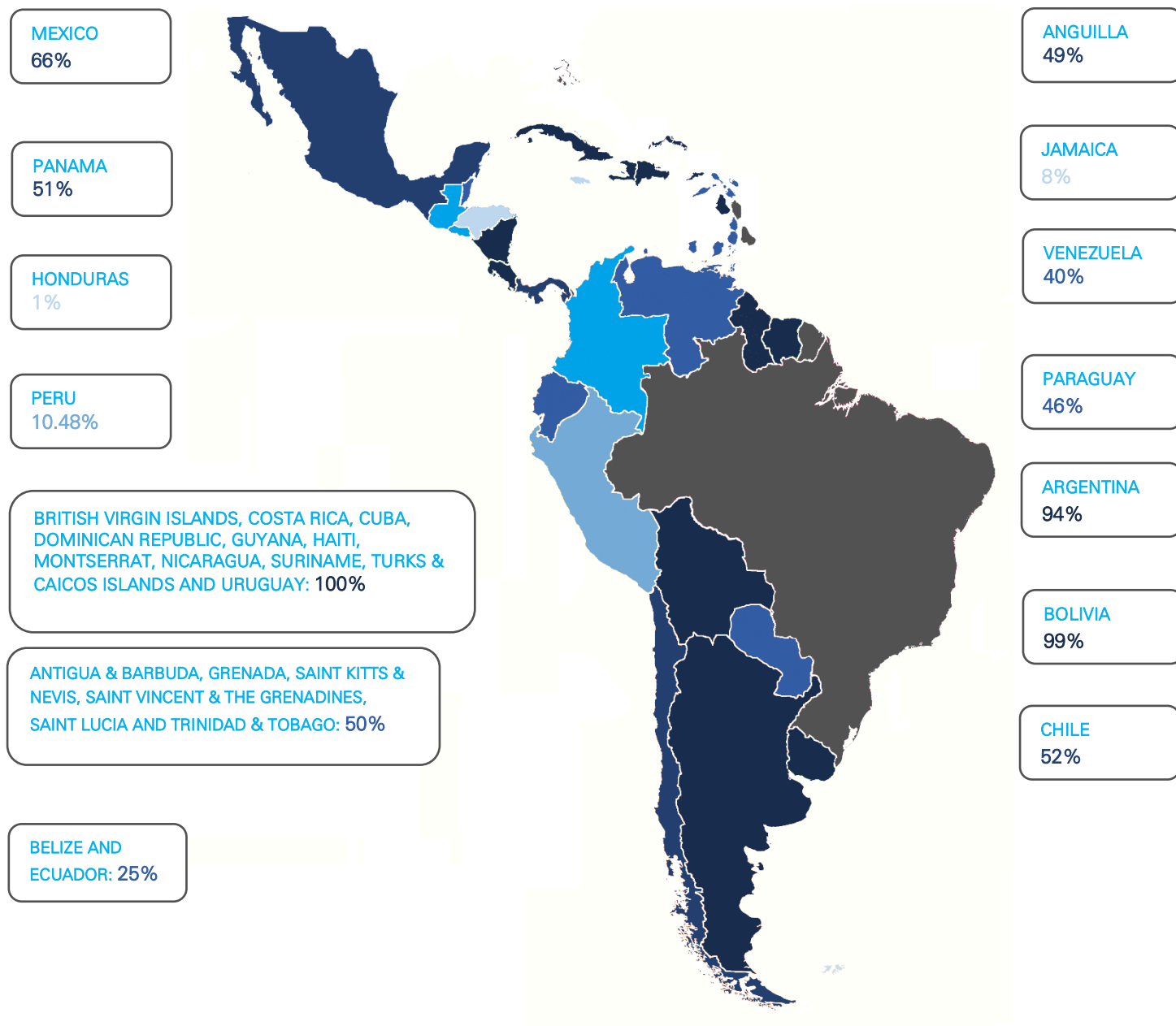


LEGEND

- Fully-closed schools (3 countries)
- Partially-closed schools (19 countries)
- Fully-open schools (12 countries)
- Academic break (3 countries)

Note for the map: Please note that we have only included information about the countries for which we have received the data on number of schools open and number of children benefited by the reopening of schools. Information received by COs and updated until early December 2021.

III. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS BENEFITED BY FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES



LEGEND



Note: The percentage has been calculated based on the total enrolment of students from pre-primary to secondary school and the number of children and adolescents benefiting from face-to-face classes.

Sources of information: Data obtained from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Institute of Statistics ([Welcome to UIS.Stat](#)), and the information provided by UNICEF COs until early December 2021.

IV. SITUATION OVERVIEW

This section was prepared based on information received by COs and updated until early December 2021.



3 country with schools **fully closed** (Bahamas, Barbados and Dominica).



60M children affected by schools' closures.²

120,750 children affected in countries where schools are fully closed.

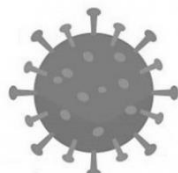
60M children affected in countries where schools are partially closed.



12 countries have all their schools **fully open** (British Virgin Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Turks & Caicos Islands, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Suriname and Uruguay).



19 countries have their schools **partially closed** (Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela).



An average of **162** school days **without face-to-face classes** between March 2020 and early December, 2021.³



20 countries and territories have prioritized teachers in the **vaccination process**.



23 countries and territories have prioritized students in the **vaccination process**.



3 countries are on **academic recess** (Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala).



50% of countries and territories have decided on a **date for school reopening**.¹



26 countries and territories continue school lessons through **remote learning** via online or television, radio, WhatsApp, printed materials and/or **hybrid models**.

Sources of information:

¹ This percentage was calculated by information provided by COs.

² Data extracted from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Institute of Statistics, '[Welcome to UIS. Stat](#)', and information provided by UNICEF COs until early December 2021.

The figure of 60 million has been calculated based on the number of children affected by schools that are partially or fully closed. In the case of Brazil, the number of children affected by schools' closures has been calculated using data on the total of students in Brazil and an approximate figure provided by the CO of the number of children that have received distance or hybrid classes.

³ Figure calculated using the schools' closures information from the Timeline. The information of the timeline has been provided by UNICEF COs from March 2020 until early December 2021.

V. PERCENTAGE OF TEACHERS VACCINATED

The below map provides a mapping of the prioritization of teachers' vaccination in the Latin American and the Caribbean region from April 2021 to the present for the countries and territories that have sent us information.

LEGEND

- 3 countries with teachers vaccinated with the 1st dose
- 17 countries with teachers vaccinated with the 2nd dose
- 5 countries without prioritization of the vaccination
- 12 countries without available data

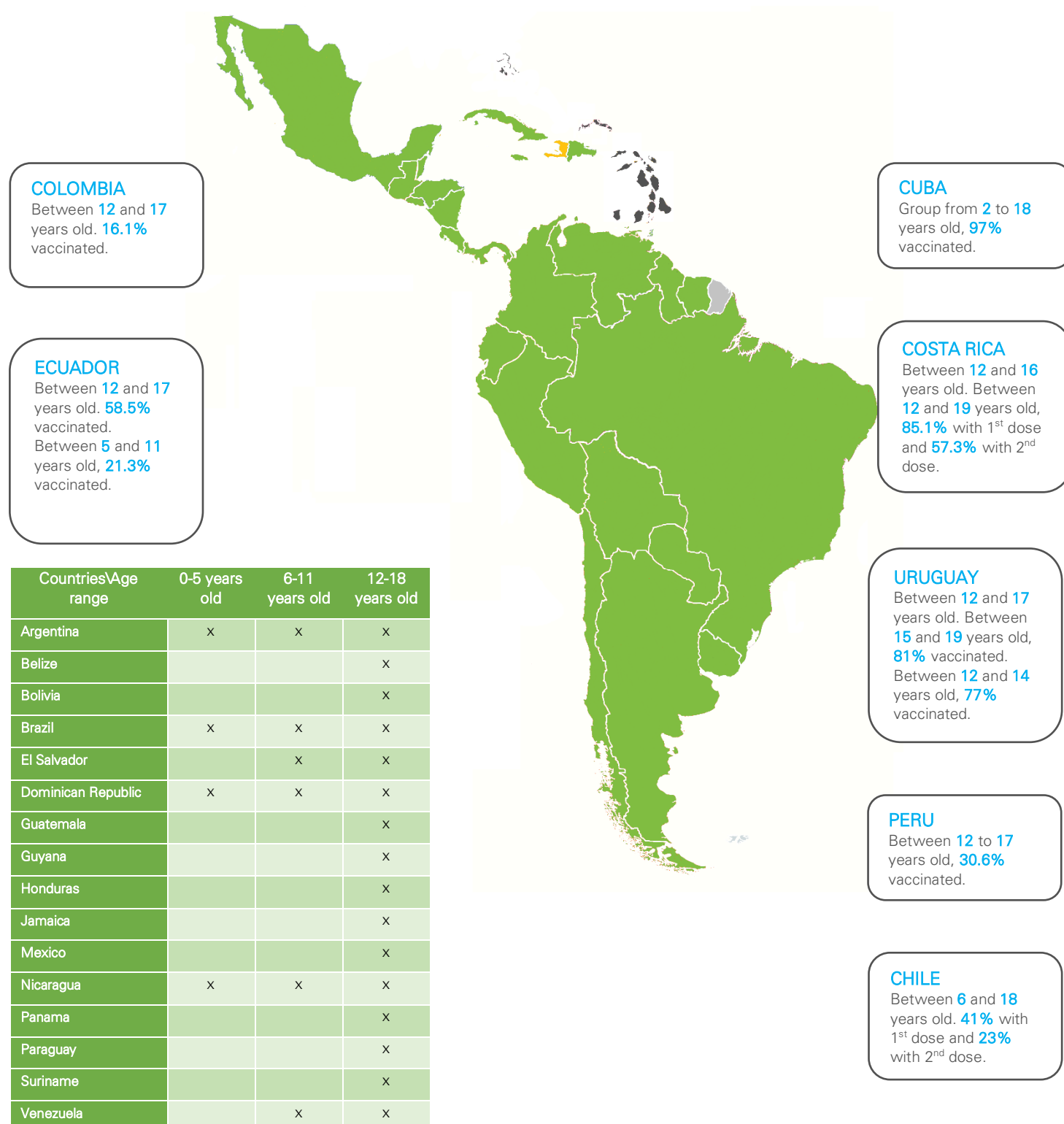


VI. MAPPING OF THE PRIORITIZATION OF STUDENTS' VACCINATION

The following map shows the prioritization of vaccination of children and adolescents in the Latin American and Caribbean region for the countries and territories that have sent us information.

LEGEND

- **62.16%** of countries have prioritized the vaccination
- **2.70%** of countries have not prioritized the vaccination
- **35.14%** of countries with no data available



VII. ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICES

ARGENTINA



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 11,530,641
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 10,802,904 (94%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 90% with 1st dose and 61% with the 2nd dose.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Over 3 years old.



Achievements:

- Consensus and promotion of plural spaces for decision-making with different stakeholders, specialists, teachers, families, and students.
- Sustained governance and development of national regulations for face-to-face return to school.
- Periodic generation of evidence and monitoring of key indicators for decision making: the impact of the pandemic on educational trajectories, working conditions and impact on the emotional situation of children and teachers.

Challenges:

- Move towards greater intersectionality in the areas of education, health, and social development.

- Carry out advocacy actions to prioritize the most vulnerable population affected by school interruption.
- Generate clear and timely communication to the community and at the institutional level.

Next steps:

- Support and accompany schools to develop learning recovery actions.
- Strengthen teacher training.
- Reimagine education to accelerate and implement differential actions, review school organization and actions, the role of tutoring spaces and integrate new technologies.
- Expansion of connectivity in schools with difficult access and distribution of information technology equipment in the most vulnerable contexts.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 101,132
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 25,600 (25%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education, distance education through web platforms, printed materials and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 85.4% with the 1st dose and 60.6% fully vaccinated.
- ✓ Student vaccination: 28.76% with the 1st dose and 23.36% fully vaccinated.



Achievements:

- Support to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology with capacity building for over 1,000 teachers in the Teacher Learning Institute (TLI), which included courses such as Positive Behavior Support System (PBS), Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), etc., which is impacting over 45,000 children.
- Training 47 teachers in the Return to Happiness (RTH) program to help children transition back to school. RESTORE Belize, through Early Intervention Identification Systems (EIS) using the A-Z assessment, is benefiting 3,300 children.
- Supported an NGO called Raise Me Up to provide remedial education and psychosocial support services to over 100 children in safe spaces. Provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Child Development Care (CCD) services to over 382 children, including children with disabilities. In addition, UNICEF and the Technical Working Group on Early Childhood Development have just secured 2.7 million in public funding for early childhood development for the 2022-2030 Strategic Plan.

Challenges:

- The main challenge in the past year was the lack of devices, Internet access and lack of technological literacy among teachers, children, and parents. In several households, especially in rural and immigrant communities, children do not have devices or Internet access. Although most teachers have devices and Internet access, most are not technology literate. This limited their ability to effectively teach online classes. No training was offered to parents to assist their children with distance learning.

Next steps:

- UNICEF will address these challenges through the "Reimagine Education" strategy, which includes providing devices and access for children. U-Zones will be created, which will have devices and Internet access for children to use in safe spaces. In addition, UNICEF Belize conducted a deep dive with El Salvador where best practices on "Reimagine Education" were shared.



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- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 2,966,735
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 2,932,255 (99%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face and distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, and print media.
- ✓ **Percentage of teachers vaccinated:** 80% with the 2nd and 3rd doses.
- ✓ **Student vaccination:** Between 12 and 17 years old.



Achievements:

- Recover the right to education.
- Support the planning of a safe return to school through the training of teachers and municipal officials in action routes.
- Culminate the school year in different teaching modalities: face-to-face, blended and distance learning.

Challenges:

- Guarantee access to the virtual platform to all students in the different educational cycles.
- Provide textbooks to all educational levels and areas of knowledge based on the prioritization of contents made by the Ministry of Education.

- The change of authority at the Ministry of Education in November has generated changes at the central level that put the continuity of several educational programs at risk.

Next steps:

- Review the school curriculum in a participatory manner.
- Reopen schools in a face-to-face manner for the 2022 school year, according to the Ministry of Education's commitment.
- Develop textbooks for primary and secondary school levels.



- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 44,326,926
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 14,852,256 (34%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face education and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Student vaccination:** Between 12 and 17 years old.



Achievements:

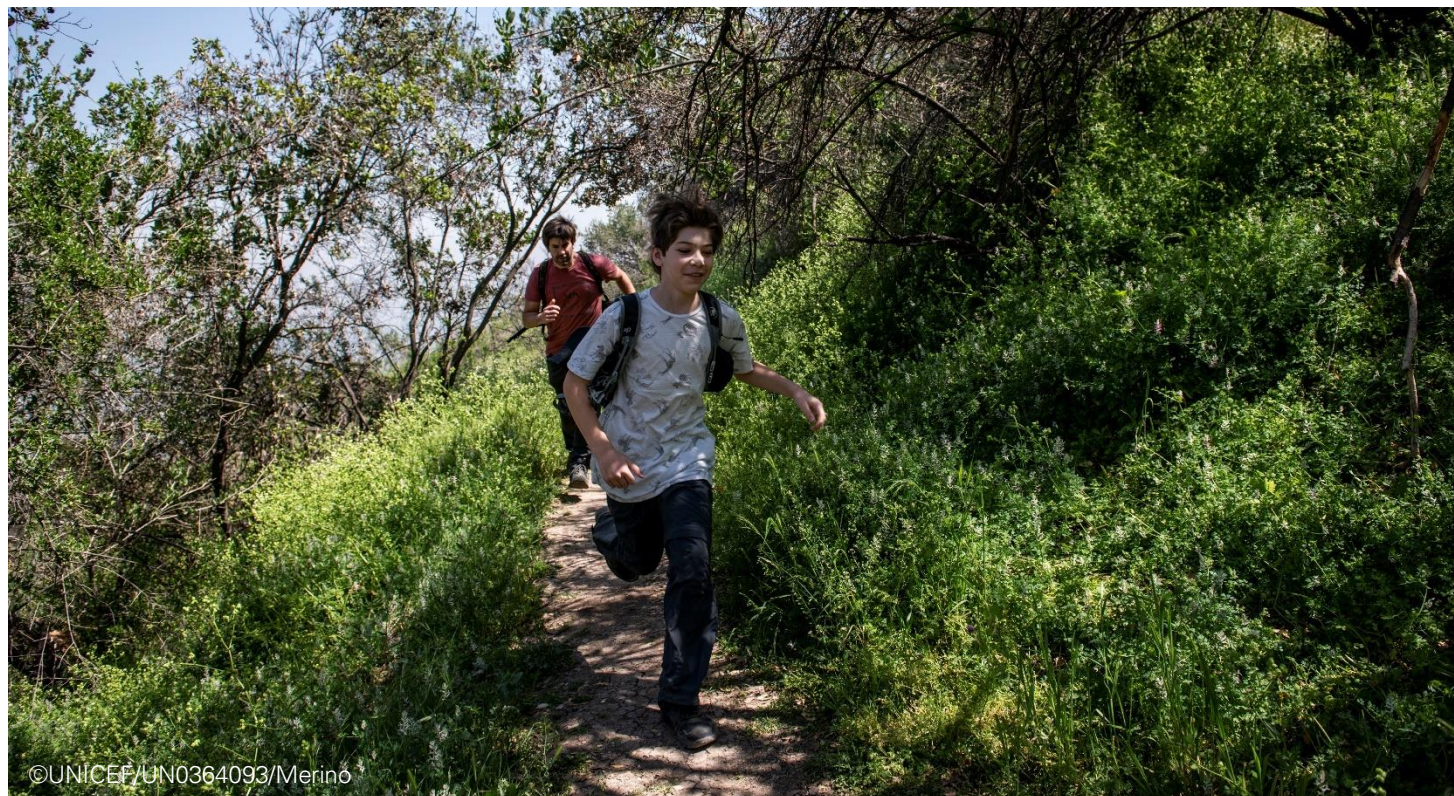
- All of Brazil's 27 states reopened their schools in the on-site modality in October, except for some municipalities that still maintain a hybrid education model.
- Significant advances on vaccination nationwide. 311,000,000 doses have been applied, with 63.3% of the population fully immunized.
- Support to the Ministry of Education with the creation of a manual for the safe reopening of schools.

Challenges:

- Safe reopening of schools with adequate conditions in the areas of water, health, and hygiene and in areas of educational infrastructure, such as adequate ventilation of spaces.

Next steps:

- Resume education along with the identification and rescue of students who have dropped out of the education system.
- Recover learning losses.



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- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 3,608,158
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 1,876,242 (52%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face education, distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Percentage of teachers vaccinated:** 98% with the 2nd dose.
- ✓ **Percentage of students vaccinated:** Between 6 and 18 years old. 41% with the 1st dose and 23% with the 2nd dose.



Achievements:

- Modify curriculum and fund schools in order to provide flexibility for better management of the pandemic in the educational community.
- By the end of the school year, 98% of schools had classroom activities, although attendance was not regular.

Challenges:

- Recover lost learning during 2020 and 2021.
- Monitor the process of reopening schools, being the next school year 2022 of compulsory attendance.
- Improve access to technologies and internet for distance education, in order to have a previous preparation for future crises.

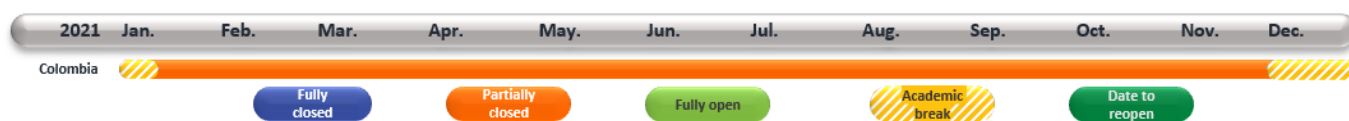
- Improve teacher training and family skills to mediate the use of technologies.

Next steps:

- Start the school year in March 2022 with compulsory attendance for students.
- Monitor the proper implementation of protocols, as well as the existence of hybrid classes in cases of COVID-19 outbreaks in the educational community.
- Deliver updated data on educational dropout 2021 and on learning outcomes measured with the [Comprehensive Learning Diagnosis](#).



- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 9,938,414
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 7,793,152 (78,2%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face education, distance education through web platforms, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Percentage of teachers vaccinated:** 80% (403,924)
- ✓ **Percentage of students vaccinated:** 16.1% vaccinated between 12 and 17 years old.



Achievements:

- Reached 95% of educational centers and 78.2% of students in face-to-face activities.
- Vaccination of more than 80% of teachers and managers.
- Adaptation of biosecurity protocols in schools nationwide.
- Achievement of agreements between the national government and teachers' unions for the resumption of on-site classes.
- Reactivation of school transportation and food services.
- Regulations that promote the reopening of schools, simplifying the safe return process.

Challenges:

- Response to legal actions by teachers and families who do not agree with the school reopening.
- Provide access to educational services for the Venezuelan migrant population.

- Increase demand for school places in the public sector, due to desertion in the private education sector.
- Execute resources to adopt biosecurity protocols in schools by local governments.
- Vaccinate students at the beginning of the third quarter of 2021.
- Generate confidence in families about the importance and conditions of safe return to school.

Next steps:

- Achieve that all children and adolescents return to school.
- Strengthen fundamental skills in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.
- Promote the closing of gaps between students with high and low academic performance.
- Provide social-emotional support in schools to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on mental health and well-being.
- Ensure protocols in all schools for safe return.



- ✓ Student enrollment: 1,189,839
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 1,189,839 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 97.9% with at least one dose.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 12 and 16 years old. Between 12 and 19 years old, 85.1% with the 1st dose and 57.3% with the 2nd dose.



Achievements:

- Safe reopening of all educational centers nationwide.
- Adaptation of the school calendar and the generation of an Integral Plan for Pedagogical Recovery 2022-2025.
- Launch of the Learning Passport educational platform, which will be used by the Ministry of Education for its curriculum and as part of the recovery plan.

Challenges:

- Partial suspension of face-to-face lessons which affected the academic year.
- The digital divide represents a great challenge for the continuity of hybrid education, generating forms of educational exclusion.
- Teachers presented low digital competencies.
- Changes in the command structure of the Ministry of Education due to the handling of sensitive information.

Next steps:

- Support for the strategy to ensure educational inclusion and the Comprehensive Pedagogical Recovery Plan 2022-2025.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 1,735,000
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 1,735,000 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 2 and 18 years old, 97% vaccinated.



Achievements:

- A massive vaccination campaign was carried out, which allowed the incorporation of more than 1,700,000 children to school.
- Review of the contents covered in the TV classes and the culmination of the school year with the evaluation of the 2020-2021 course was planned for February 2022.

- Preparation and filming of TV classes. As part of the TV classes process, the Ministry of Education prepared capsules and multimedia content to enrich the contents and make them more user-friendly.
- Preparation of schools for reopening.
- Provision of socioemotional attention in a difficult context and personalized attention to children who had COVID-19 or had family losses.

Challenges:

- Continuity of distance education through television. Now that all schools are open, programs on educational channels and reviews are maintained. In addition, the free digital platforms with virtual repairman, My Class TV App, and other accesses through *Cubaeduca* are maintained.

Next steps:

- Culmination of the 2020-2021 school year in February and start of the 2021-2022 school year in March.
- Review of the material taught in the TV classes and review of its content, introduction of new content with the accelerated curriculum and evaluation processes for passing grades and graduation, and continuity of studies for terminal grades.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 2,761,118
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 2,761,118 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 99% with the 2nd dose.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Over 5 years old.



Achievements:

- Completion of the school year completely through distance learning in June with educational materials for each child allowing them to continue learning from home, and the participation of families in education.
- Reopening of schools in September, national implementation of the Return to Happiness psycho-affective recovery program adapted to COVID-19 in the school reopening and supported by the UNICEF education component.
- Provision of accessible materials for the population with disabilities.

Challenges:

- Work-life balance and educational response to the population with disabilities due to the limited information the education system has on number of children with disabilities and their needs.

Next steps:

- Work on the scale of a program to improve learning in the early grades and support to the Ministry of Education in peace culture and mental health in schools.



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- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 502,481
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 228,408 (45,45%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face education and distance education through web platforms.

Achievements:

- Two countries operating in the online modality, three countries open with face-to-face classes, and seven countries operating in the hybrid modality.
- Some countries received devices to support vulnerable children with online access to virtual classes.
- Professional development training for teachers to support the delivery of online education.
- Support for the development of the online curriculum content.
- UNICEF shared guidelines for the safe reopening of schools and child development centers with the Ministries of Education. All countries have developed their own guidelines and protocols guided by their Ministry of Health.

- Pandemic concerns continue with most countries experiencing intermittent spikes in COVID-19.
- Face-to-face classes present some challenges as schools must implement the hybrid education modality to accommodate a safe number of students while managing health protocols.

Next steps:

- UNICEF will continue to advocate for the return of all school-age children to their schools and child development centers.
- All countries are planning for face-to-face education by January 2022.
- UNICEF has offered support to address learning recovery and will continue to support access to education based on the needs.

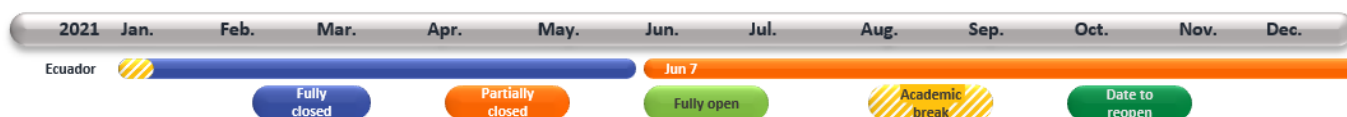
Challenges:

- Some children and adolescents have not been able to access online classes.
- Some families have problems with consistent availability of electricity, Internet connectivity and access to devices.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 4,314,777
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 1,069,662 (25%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: More than 90%.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 12 and 17 years old, 58.5%. Between 5 and 11 years old, 21.3%.



Achievements:

- In June, the executive decree for the progressive return to classes was issued. In November, the Ministry of Education made the decision to initiate the mandatory return to face-to-face education.

- Readjust regulations as the pandemic evolves.
- Emergency Operations Committee (COE) suspends on-site return to classes for schools that were to start in December and January due to the threat of the omicron variant.

Challenges:

- Motivate the educational community to initiate the process of safe return to classes.
- Adapt the offer regarding the availability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and biosafety.
- Advocate for the education sector to have the necessary budget to guarantee the safe return to school.

Next steps:

- Reach a return of at least 90% of children and adolescents to face-to-face classes.
- Make decisions based on the evolution of the pandemic, considering the return to school as a key element in the decisions of the COE.
- Improve WASH and biosecurity conditions in all educational centers.
- Reduce learning losses during this school period.



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- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 1,105,953
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 298,713 (27%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face and distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Percentage of students vaccinated:** Over 6 years old.



Achievements:

- Most students have returned to the classroom in a semi-presential, multimodal, optional, and gradual manner.
- More than 375,000 students and teachers have received computers and connectivity packages.
- More than half a million children participated in diagnostic tests.
- Student attention was maintained through various platforms such as Google Classroom, TV, radio, and printed material.

Challenges:

- Generate confidence in families, especially in younger students, for them to return more regularly to schools.

Next steps:

- Attending to the current provisions of the Ministry of Health, the 2022 school year is planned to start in a semi-presential, multimodal, gradual, and optional manner.
- Reaffirm biosafety protocols and the provision of supplies and materials to serve students in the new school year.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 4,192,944
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 4,140,158 (99%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 47.25% with the 2nd dose and 51.23% with the 1st dose.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 12 and 17 years. 557,062 with the 1st dose and 184,347 with the complete scheme. (13.28% with the 1st dose and 4.39% with the 2nd dose).



Achievements:

- Prioritization of vaccination for parents' organizations.
- Delivery of food for all pre-primary and primary school children (2,621,923 children enrolled in 29,514 official schools with an investment of \$1,897,410 in food for 183 school days).

Challenges:

- Lack of connectivity and technological equipment.
- Low level of schooling of parents.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for teachers, students, and their families.

- Lack of play materials, adequate facilities to comply with biosecurity measures.

Next steps:

- New protocols, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and improve educational infrastructure.
- Improve training in digital competencies, virtual environments, academic levelling brigades, follow-up on educational enrolment.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 208,294
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 208,294 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: Nearly 50%.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Between 12 and 18 years old.



Achievements:

- The reopening of schools and efforts by the Ministry of Education to continue learning in safe and protective learning environments and the promotion of vaccination of teachers, children, and adolescents.

Challenges:

- Teachers' doubts about the vaccination process and access to most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Next steps:

- Getting all schools to offer daily face-to-face learning as of January 3rd, 2022 and consolidating the learning assessment process.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 4,000,000
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 4,000,000 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education.



Achievements:

- Keeping schools open, preventing massive dropout, distributing school supplies to students and teachers, catch-up classes for students going to national exams, and cash transfer to vulnerable families.

Challenges:

- Violence and insecurity, political turmoil, earthquake in August, increase in COVID-19 cases, frequent changes in Ministry of Education staff, lack of high-level decisions.

Next steps:

- Humanitarian cash transfers to prevent massive dropout, school construction and distance learning.



- ✓ Student enrollment: 2,024,045
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 17,388 (1%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: Over 80%.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Over 12 years old.



Achievements:

- Advocacy on the need to reopen schools.
- Vaccination of teachers and a high percentage of students.
- Support for school rehabilitation (49 schools) with UNICEF support.
- Implementation of alternative and flexible learning modalities, such as Educational Bridges, SAT, and Learning Passport.

Challenges:

- Achieving the reopening of educational centres and advocacy for investment in school rehabilitation.

Next steps:

- Achieve the reopening of schools in a semi-presential manner in February 2022 through a communication and advocacy strategy, which includes meetings with the new government authorities.



- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 770,000
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 60,390 (8%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face and distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Percentage of teachers vaccinated:** 60% (12,600) with the complete immunization schedule.
- ✓ **Percentage of students vaccinated:** Between 12 and 18 years old, 12.98%.



Achievements:

- Completion of the Public Education Expenditure review (PER), facilitation of youth voice and inclusion of out-of-school youth issues in the National Education Commission, capacity building of some 6,000 teachers in blended learning, creation of the "Return to Happiness" program and training of over 500 school staff, supporting the summer recovery effort by developing, printing, and distributing 60,000 learning kits, upgrading WASH facilities to make 27 rural schools COVID-19 compliant and "Safe Reopening for All" campaign gaining national support.

Challenges:

- Most schools remain closed for any form of face-to-face classes.

Next steps:

- Leverage partnerships and alliances to begin implementing the recommendations of the public expenditure review, implement the Learning Passport, facilitate ongoing training in "Return to Happiness", support continued teacher hybrid instructional capacity building, and focus on learning recovery.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 30,397,979
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 20,000,000 (66%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Blended learning and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 88% with the second doses.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Between 15 and 17 years old.



Achievements:

- Successfully advocating for the reopening of schools.

Challenges:

- Reaching vulnerable populations through distance education, advocacy for face-to-face return to school, learning recovery, and access to comprehensive back-to-school data.

Next steps:

- Finalize "Health in your Hands" with trainings in January 2022; continue to support learning recovery through the Learning Passport for high school, and learning camps for elementary education, as well as continue to assist with reopening monitoring through the monitoring dashboard and advocacy for full reopening.



- ✓ Student enrollment: 1,800,293
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 1,800,293 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face and hybrid model.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Over 5 years old.



Achievements:

- Over the course of the school year, all schools remained open providing face-to-face education to all.

Challenges:

- Irregular attendance at face-to-face classes due to fear of COVID-19 infection.

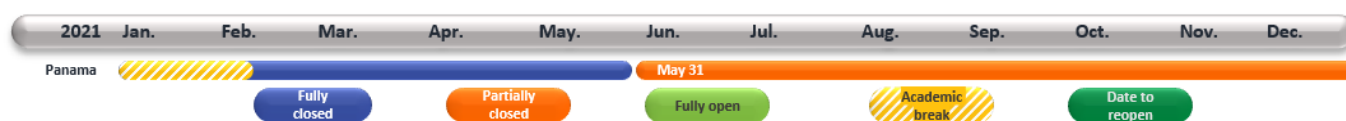
Next steps:

- Guarantee access to education for children and adolescents belonging to the most vulnerable populations.
- Prepare the educational system to offer educational services in emergency scenarios.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 837,246
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 424,929 (51%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face and distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, print media and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 91.4% with the 2nd dose.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Between 12 and 18 years old.



Achievements:

- Through Decree 2077 of December 1, 2021, the [return to face-to-face education](#) has been established for the 2022 school year. The study of 7 Dimensions of Educational Exclusion in Panama based on the Out-of-School Children (OOSCI) methodology has been carried out and a first presentation has been made to the Ministry of Education through a technical meeting with the objective of designing strategies to mitigate school dropout and risk.

Challenges:

- Educational quality of distance education reflected through the [household survey](#) and student tracking information systems.

Next steps:

- UNICEF will provide technical support to the Ministry of Education in the Physical School Reopening Plan, National Recovery and Inclusion Plan and Campaign for families on the importance of returning to face-to-face classes.



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- ✓ **Student enrollment:** 1,546,022
- ✓ **Children benefiting by the reopening:** 714,184 (46%).
- ✓ **Learning modalities:** Face-to-face education, distance education through web platforms, radio, and hybrid model.
- ✓ **Percentage of students vaccinated:** Between 12 and 17 years old, 23.23% vaccinated out of a total of 405,620.



Achievements:

- Work with communities for the reopening of schools, reaching 1,176 schools that comply with the protocol, 6,592 teachers and managers trained with a potential reach of 342,178 students. Likewise, 13 educational institutions have water and sanitation improvements. The continuity of learning of 12,729 students has also been supported through school support days and implementation of audio program.

Challenges:

- Monitoring of student learning. In addition, during the implementation of interventions it has been difficult to monitor the number of children and adolescents benefited, including disaggregation. In certain indigenous communities, there has been

perceived rejection of information about COVID-19, making it difficult to effectively reach messages about care and implementation of the protocol.

Next steps:

- Continued assistance in the implementation of return and risk management protocols in indigenous communities, provision of personal protection supplies and teacher training.
- Distribution of educational materials for literacy in mother tongue and technical assistance to the Ministry of Education for a connectivity mapping and strengthening of the digital learning platform with digital content and adjustments with the Universal Design for Learning approach.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 8,290,641
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 869,074 (10,48%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education, distance education through web platforms, TV, radio, and hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 5.1% with the 1st dose, 86.5% with the 2nd dose, and 1% with the 3rd dose.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 12 and 17 years old. 2,449,107 with the 1st dose and 1,110,838 with the 2nd dose.



Achievements:

- UNICEF was a key player in positioning the importance of safe and urgent return to schools. Technical assistance has been provided for the formulation of return regulations and the development of protocols and accompanied the process of reopening schools in rural and urban areas. It has also supported civil society collectives and families demanding reopening, providing key information and international experiences.

Challenges:

- Very slow reopening process. To date, only 10% of students have had some form of face-to-face and semi-face attendance. Despite evidence,

there are authorities, teachers and families who still believe it is not safe to open schools; some demanded vaccination of all teachers, adolescents, boys, and girls for the return, as well as resolving all previous problems.

Next steps:

- Full reopening has been proposed for March, at the start of the 2022 school year, but many believe that such a quick reopening will not be easy. In addition to reopening, there are major challenges linked to learning losses, new diversity within the same classrooms, social-emotional and mental health requirements, and school dropout, among others.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 143,393
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 143,393 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face and distance education through web platforms and TV.
- ✓ Student vaccination: Between 12 and 18 years old.



Achievements:

- Production and launch of video lessons for distance learning in primary and early childhood education.
- Launch of WASH in schools (localized three-star approach).
- Continued support to the Ministry of Education with the reopening of schools.
- Support for educational reforms to build back better.

Challenges:

- Implementation capacity in implementing partners. Working from home is a challenge for many workers in the education sector due to lack of facilities and internet.

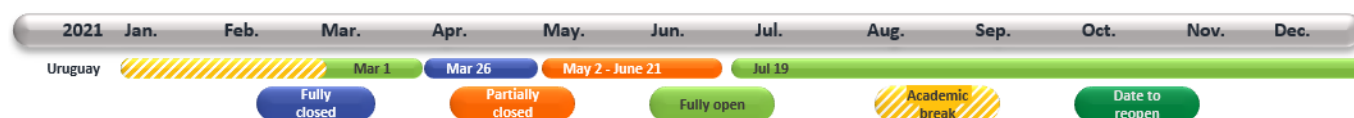
Next steps:

- Continuation of the roll-out of the new 2 years of orientation after primary and before entering lower secondary, scale up on WASH in schools, and improvement of inclusive education for children with disabilities.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 772,463
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 772,463 (100%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Face-to-face education.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: Between 12 and 17 years old, between 15 and 19 years old, 81 % and between 12 and 14 years old, 77%.



Achievements:

- After a first semester with a total interruption of classes, the main progress of the year is to have achieved full online classes as of July, on a mandatory basis at all educational levels (initial, primary, and secondary education). Online classes made it possible to resume part of the agendas set by the new administration to initiate a process of curricular transformation of all compulsory education in the country.

Challenges:

- During distance education periods, maintaining student participation through the educational platforms of the CEIBAL Plan, the system's digital resources and school networks, which made it possible to keep the system active.

- To have accurate information that would make it possible to account for attendance and non-attendance, educational disengagement, participation in the educational process and learning achieved.

Next steps:

- One of the key factors to work on during 2022 is the recovery of apprenticeships. Continue the process of curricular transformation, which allows correcting the existing dissociation between the contents offered by the system and the demands of the students. This dissociation is a predictor of the low return of secondary education in Uruguay. Promote digital solutions and innovative projects to generate conditions for inclusive and quality education.



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- ✓ Student enrollment: 8,182,309
- ✓ Children benefiting by the reopening: 3,272,924 (40%).
- ✓ Learning modalities: Hybrid model.
- ✓ Percentage of teachers vaccinated: 300,000 with the 1st dose.
- ✓ Percentage of students vaccinated: More than 469,652 students have been vaccinated with the 1st dose (5.74% with the 1st dose).



Achievements:

- 317,661 children and adolescents received educational kits; 108,604 benefited from the school feeding program; 380,000 adolescents participate in the life skills program; 172,152 children and adolescents assisted through the psychosocial support and emotional well-being program; 219,416 students supported with distance education strategies; 16,070 teachers and managers trained in emergency education; and 9,067 teachers received incentives.
- 61,809 children and adolescents at risk of dropping out of the educational system participated in recreational and school reinforcement activities during the vacations and 739 were reinserted into school.
- More than 6,983,815 people reached with key messages and 10,400 children and adolescents with disabilities and 24,786 children and adolescents belonging to 11 indigenous peoples were attended.

Challenges:

- To deepen actions and strategies to ensure minimum conditions and mitigate the family cost of schooling.
- Attention to children and adolescents at risk of dropping out of school.
- The return of children and adolescents to face-to-face education in a context of economic and health crisis.
- Facilitating the permanence of teachers in school and improving their teaching processes.
- Having quality information available in a permanent and timely manner.
- Some schools had to close during the month of December because of the interruptions due to electoral processes.

Next steps:

- Seek funding to ensure minimum conditions for the attendance and permanence of vulnerable children and adolescents; promote learning assessment processes, as well as strengthen programs for reading, writing and math skills; prioritize attention to early childhood development, adolescents, indigenous people, and children with disabilities; strengthen actions for the identification, care and reintegration of children and adolescents out of school.

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