Highlights

- As of 25 September, Chile has 453,868 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 16,996 deaths. Sharp increase of cases is suspected in September during the National Day celebrations.
- According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard on 28 September, Chile is at 9th place in the world for confirmed cases per million people, compared to its 4th place in August, and reports the third highest rate in the region, following Panama and Peru. It is in 4th place in the region for deaths per million people, after Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, compared to its 2nd place in August.
- The country is in general slowly moving out of lockdowns. The focus of the lockdown comunas shifted from Greater Santiago to the central and northern Chile, where the population density is lower but so is the capacity of the hospitals. Nightly curfews continue nationwide.
- Some schools started to open, while the great majority of schools remain closed.
- “31 Minutos,” a popular Chilean puppet show for children, co-producing children's programs related to Covid-19, is now UNICEF Chile's national Goodwill Ambassador.
- UNICEF continues to assist the development of protocols for reopening schools with the Municipality of Renca, in close coordination with UNESCO. The first draft of the protocols for reopening schools is being finalized.
- UNICEF Chile makes efforts to ensure the link between interventions in COVID-19 emergency and development. Two recent examples were “the Other Social Distance” campaign for child poverty, and embracing new opportunities to promote family reunification for institutionalized children of SENAME.
- COVID-19 survey highlights adolescent concerns towards safe school reopening.
- PFP fundraising campaign for the COVID-19 response finished in mid-September, exceeding the goal and raised $124,000 from 6,000 in-country pledge donors.

Situation in Numbers

- 453,868 Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases (Epidemiology Report #54 COVID-19, 26 September 2020, Ministry of Health)
- 16,996 COVID-19 deaths (Epidemiology Report #54 COVID-19, 26 September 2020, Ministry of Health)
- 3,599,048 children with schools closed nationwide since 18 March, except small pacific islands. (Ministry of Education and calculation of UNICEF)
Situation of COVID-19 in Chile
As of 25 September, Chile has 453,868 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 16,996 deaths. It is considered that the COVID-19 peak in Chile was reached in mid-June. A sharp increase of cases is suspected at the end of September due to the National Day celebrations (18 September).

According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard on 28 September, Chile is at 9th place in the world for confirmed cases per million people, compared to its 4th place in August, and reports the third highest rate in the region (23,953.56), following Panama (24,613.84) and Peru (24,267.43). It is in 4th place in the region for deaths per million people (661.27), after Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, compared to its 2nd place in August.

As of 22 September, out of 345 comunas of the country, 43 comunas are in step-1 (lockdown, 20% less compared to a month ago), 49 in step-2 (transition, compared to 44), 204 in step-3 (preparation, compared to 192), and 49 in step-4 (initial opening, compared to 55). The focus of the lockdown comunas shifted from Greater Santiago to the central and northern Chile, where the population density is lower but so is the capacity of the hospitals. In comunas in step-1&2, lockdown of weekends and holidays continues. Nightly curfews continue nationwide.

The great majority of schools remain closed, but a few schools started to open.

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 fundraising efforts by the PFP team, as well as EMOPS contribution.

PFP fundraising activities and funding during COVID-19
UNICEF Chile continued responding with a fundraising, awareness, and retention plan of pledge donors during COVID-19 pandemic. The fundraising campaign for the COVID-19 response, started in May and finished in mid-September, exceeded the goal amount and raised more than US$124,000 from one-off donations from 6,000 pledge donors. During the campaign, 3,500+ pledge donors requested UNICEF’s materials for COVID-19 response for their personal use. The DRTV campaign broadcasted on the main Chilean television channels contributed to its success.

UNICEF continued outreach to communicate with pledge donors. Almost 50,000 in-country individual donors received communication through SNS with the themes: “Quarantine 31,” “Social Distance,” “Responsibility during national holidays,” and “Interaction posts inviting pledge donors to share how they are during COVID-19.” UNICEF reached 36,000 pledge donors with the post “Responsibility during national holidays” through their newsfeed on SNS, and the post “Social Distance” generated 350+ reactions (shares, comments and likes).

UNICEF Chile received in-kind contribution of 82,250 non-medical masks from the company Essity, in an effort of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the country. According to WHO guidelines, these masks can be used by people, excluding health personnel, COVID-19 positive patients and caregivers of COVID-19 patients. UNICEF facilitated the donation of the masks to the National Service for Minors (SENAME), benefitting 1,800 children and adolescents and 2,800 workers in 50 residential care centres operated by collaborating organizations in the Santiago Metropolitan Region.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF continues to support municipalities for the preparation of school reopening
UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance to the Municipality of Renca in greater Santiago, in the development of protocols for reopening schools, in close coordination with UNESCO.

The first draft of the protocols for reopening schools is being finalized and will be shared with municipalities shortly. Based on this pilot experience, UNICEF Chile plans to build a model which can be shared and replicated by other municipalities, taking full advantage of existing frameworks and guidelines that UNICEF and partners provide globally.
Three webinars were co-organized by UNICEF and the Municipality of Renca, and transmitted through UNICEF Chile Facebook and YouTube channels, as well as Renca’s social medias. The first webinar “Thinking the educational community in times of pandemic” had 300+ participants and 4,000+ views in Facebook. The second webinar on socioemotional support, and the third webinar with adolescents sharing their experiences of distance learning and expectations/fears of going back to schools, had 2,000+ views on Facebook.

To date, according to MOE, 47 schools are open in the regions of Aysen, La Araucania, Los Rios, Magallanes, and Valparaiso (which includes previously reported Easter Island and Juan Fernandez archipelago with a total of 1,152 children), and 141 schools are in the process of reopening. The number of children in these schools are being confirmed with MOE.

UNICEF facilitates the Civil Society to Coordinate their Education response to COVID-19

Due to lack of a coordinated response from the civil society to school closure, UNICEF facilitated the organization of a coordination mechanism of the education actors of the civil society in Chile. This coordination mechanism will be co-led by América Solidaria and Educación 2020, both well respected local NGOs, with the participation of UNICEF, UNESCO, and the University of Chile (Center for Advanced Research in Education - CIAE) in its Technical Advisor Group. It aims to make visible the situation of the most vulnerable children, to organize the civil society response to reduce inequity, and to minimize duplicated efforts by maximizing available resources.

The coordination mechanism will invite a variety of actors (such as the academia, teacher’s union, school owners, municipalities, etc) to discuss and present concrete proposals to the MOE regarding the school reopening and distance learning during and after COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Survey highlights Adolescent Concerns Towards Safe School Reopening

UNICEF, as member of the ‘Mi Voz Cuenta’ Alliance (‘My Voice Matters’), presented the final results of a survey which explored the situation of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 lockdown. The online survey, named ‘Children and Adolescents in Quarantine,’ received responses from 919 children and adolescents ages 10-17 from throughout Chile. It addressed issues and challenges related to distance/online education from home and socio-emotional aspects of being in lockdown including their concerns, fears, and expectations of how their lives and rights are being affected during the pandemic. A key result of this survey is the lack of confidence students, particularly adolescents of ages 14-17, have towards a safe return to schools once they reopen. They are concerned schools might not be able to guarantee proper protection protocols, including hygiene and social distancing, inside school premises to prevent COVID-19 contagion. The results of this survey will inform school reopening plans and contribute to advocacy efforts for a safe return to schools. The ‘Mi Voz Cuenta’ Alliance seeks to facilitate effective participation spaces for children and adolescents in order to amplify their voices on matters that directly affect them. This survey was developed and validated with active participation of the adolescents, and the results were publicly presented by them.

Link to the webinar with key results of the survey: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6xUd34hUMU. Learn more about ‘Mi Voz Cuenta’ Alliance: @mivozcuenta2020.

Linking Emergency and Development: “the Other Social Distance” campaign

Based on the on-going study on the negative and long-term impact of children living in poverty, UNICEF participated in the radio and social media campaign “The Other Social Distance” (linked to “social distancing” as a COVID-19 prevention measure). The campaign highlighted children living in poverty, and how poverty affects their life and development, with a special emphasis of a long-term social and economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children. UNICEF has been repeatedly expressing the concern of how COVID-19 pandemic is widening the already existing disparities and inequity in Chile.

The campaign was undertaken in partnership with the civil society partners of Hogar de Cristo, Colunga Foundation, the Ibero-American Center for the Rights of the Child (CIDENI), and the Millennium Nucleus for the Study of the Course of Life and Vulnerability of (MLIV).
UNICEF Chile promotes to prevent family separation by placing children in institutions during COVID-19 pandemic, and timely family reunification for separated children, by providing support to the Government, civil society, and other public institutions.

As reported in July, COVID-19 pandemic opened new opportunities to promote family reunification for institutionalized children in Chile. UNICEF provides technical assistance and guidelines to the National Service for Minors (SENAME) and the justice operators in order to ensure that their focus remain on reuniting children with their families, according to their best interest. UNICEF monitors the number of children and adolescents placed in residential care centres, as well as the difficulties identified during the decision-making process by justice operators for the family reunification process.

UNICEF is also supporting the development of a technical note for frontline residential care workers to encourage families for permanent reunification with their children, which will turn this opportunity presented during COVID-19 pandemic into a sustainable solution.

Chile Crece Contigo professionals promotes nurturing care for young children

With UNICEF’s support, 4,139 Chile Crece Contigo programme professionals were trained with a tool to promote nurturing care and violence prevention in early childhood during COVID-19 pandemic. The tool was developed by UNICEF LACRO and, through phone calls, helps to identify parenting problems associated with the lockdown, and to provide recommendations for positive parenting practices. 70% of these trained professionals participated in the live training and 30% watched the video. They represent 84% of the geographical coverage of the country.

Parenting messages to prevent violence during lockdown

Building on the work done over the decades, UNICEF advocated against violence against children and GBV during COVID-19 lockdowns through several webinars and Facebook Live organized by different actors of public and private sectors, such as the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, the Undersecretariat of Early Childhood Education, the National Board of Children's Kindergartens (JUNJI), Chile Crece Contigo, CODELCO, and Kimberly Clark -Huggies-. Recommendation also included messages on parenting, co-responsibilities, and active fatherhood.

UNICEF developed the Guideline “Co-responsibility and Active Fatherhood during COVID-19 Pandemic,” to promote co-responsibilities in housework and active parenthood during quarantine and lockdown, and also preventing VAC and GBV.

UNICEF provided technical inputs for the development of Chile Crece Contigo’s video “Parenting during the Pandemic,” which has been seen widely in the social media with more than 188,000 views.

Children receive colouring booklets at “sanitary residences” during mandatory isolation

370 children under 10 years old in lockdown at the “sanitary residences” received coloring booklets with contents related to confinement, and their parents received UNICEF guidebooks with parenting recommendations during COVID-19.

In times of pro-digital communication, UNICEF delivered 810 printed parenting guidebooks for parents and coloring books for children at MOH’s “sanitary residences,” where the parents spend mandatory isolation period of 14 days. The UNICEF guides provides tips on how to talk about COVID-19 with young children, expected changes in children’s behaviors, and how to support them, self-care recommendations for caregivers, and co-responsibility in parenting during COVID-19 pandemic. Children’s coloring booklets also provide opportunities for psychosocial support by expressing their emotions and talking about their experiences.
Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF nominates 31 Minutes as UNICEF Chile Goodwill Ambassadors
As a part of celebration of 30th anniversary of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Chile, UNICEF announced the appointment of 31 Minutes as Goodwill Ambassadors of UNICEF Chile for their contribution to the promotion of the rights of children for over a decade.

31 Minutes has been a key ally for UNICEF Chile in communicating about children's rights in a simple and playful manner. UNICEF acknowledged that 31 Minutes handle a series of important topics that are of interest to children and families, and treated them seriously, but with a sense of humour, keeping them interesting and attractive. 31 Minutes has become an expert in communicating about the rights of children and adolescents with respect and dignity, as enshrined in the Convention. One of such examples is the creation of a new superhero, Sock-with-Rhombuses Man, who defends children’s rights in a daily life.

31 Minutes continues to work with children to prevent COVID-19
UNICEF broadcasted short videos of the 31 Minutes “Quarantine 31” series, a joint production with “31 Minutes, a very popular Chilean puppet show for children and adolescents, and reinforced measures to prevent COVID-19 infections, such as physical distancing and advice for studying home. The series “Quarantine 31” includes 4 video clips to talk about children’s emotions and fear during the COVID-19 pandemic through “Studying at Home,” “Pandemic,” “Birthday,” and “Fear,” and a song “Spring,” and has had great success on the UNICEF and 31 Minutes social networks. The video on physical distancing reached 295,681 people on Facebook and 194,464 people on Instagram. The video with Corcheti’s (one of the characters) home-study tips reached 128,672 people on Facebook and 196,418 people on Instagram. With the arrival of spring in the southern hemisphere, the song “Spring” became popular with its English subtitle version, and the Karaoke version, reaching 24,704 people on Facebook.

The “Quarantine 31” series is now broadcasted throughout Latin America by Cartoon Network and Boomerang, reaching 48 million homes and 32 million homes, respectively.

The series is now being translated with English subtitles and be available soon for non-Spanish speaker children. The super journalist Bodoque, a red rabbit, shares his emotions, such as fear, desperation, confusion, boredom, which are based on the results of different surveys with children.

UNICEF communicates messages for families
In preparation for the transition after a long period of lockdown, UNICEF disseminated hand-washing messages for families through social networks, and “what to do” graphics were developed in case family members present COVID-19 symptoms, as well as how to explain it to children. This post on Facebook reached 1.1 million people. UNICEF also provided recommendations on how to talk about the grieving process with children, when loved ones were lost due to COVID-19.

UNICEF promoted safe activities for families during the celebration of National Holidays (18 September) to avoid COVID-19 infections, focusing on the celebration at home, featuring Chile's typical traditions during the celebrations.

The guidelines were shared on UNICEF Chile's website: "Hygiene and protection measures explained to children under 8 years of age," and "Guidelines for the reopening of comprehensive early childhood care services in times of COVID-19".

Human interest stories:
"I have seen more young people respecting sanitary measures than adults themselves," by Fabián Fermín, the National Representative of the Advisory Council for Adolescents and Young People of the Ministry of Health (in Spanish). https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/he-visto-m%C3%A1s-j%C3%B3venes-respetando-las-medidas-sanitarias-que-los-propios-adultos.
Next SitRep: October 30, 2020

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UNICEF LAC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uniceflac](http://www.facebook.com/uniceflac)

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