



UNICEF Chile 2020

Reporting Period: October 2020

Highlights

- As of 25 October, Chile has 503,598 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 18,825 deaths. Suspected sharp increase of cases in September following the National Day celebrations did not happen.
- According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard on 28 October, Chile is no longer in its 12 countries in the world for confirmed cases per million people, compared to its 9th place in August. It is now on 8th place in the world for deaths per million people, and to 4th place in the region, after Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, compared to its 4th 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 southern and northern Chile, where the population density is lower but so is the capacity of the hospitals. Nightly curfews continue nationwide.
- Schools slowly started to reopen. As of end October, 6% of schools are open or in process of reopening.
- UNICEF continues to assist the development of protocols for reopening schools, in close coordination with UNESCO. The first draft of the protocols for reopening schools is being finalized.
- UNICEF contributes for the Education sector coordination by facilitating the organization of a coordination mechanism of the education actors of the civil society.
- UNICEF contributes to the Congress' discussion on the new migration law and makes efforts to ensure the link between interventions in COVID-19 emergency and development.
- PFP continued DirectTV campaign, which contributed to improve retention rate and acquisition of new donors, transmitting messages of UNICEF's work in COVID-19.

Chile

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 5

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



503,598

Laboratory-confirmed
COVID-19 cases
(Epidemiology Report #63
COVID-19, 26 October
2020, Ministry of Health)



18,825

COVID-19 deaths
(Epidemiology Report #63
COVID-19, 26 October
2020, Ministry of Health)



6% of schools are open or
in process of reopening.
(Source: [media](#))

Situation of COVID-19 in Chile

As of 25 October, Chile has 503,598 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 18,825 deaths. Suspected sharp increase of cases in September following the National Day celebrations did not happen.

According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard on 26 October, Chile is no longer in its 12 countries in the world for highest confirmed cases per million people, compared to its 9th place in September. It is now on 8th place in the world for deaths per million people, after Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil in the region, compared to its 4th place in August.

The majority of the country is coming out of lockdown. As of 26 October, out of [345 comunas of the country](#), 27 comunas are in step-1 (lockdown, compared to 43 a month ago), 75 in step-2 (transition, compared to 44), 209 in step-3 (preparation, compared to 204), and 34 in step-4 (initial opening, compared to 49). The focus of the lockdown comunas shifted from Greater Santiago to the southern 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.

Schools are slowly reopening in Chile, while there is a conflicting position between MOE and a group of associations. As of 27 October, 219 schools are open and 602 in the process of re-opening (i.e. waiting for the MOE approval)¹, representing 6% of all 13,056 schools at all levels in the country². The number of children attending school is being confirmed, as the attendance rate depends on each school.

As of 23 October, according to MOE, 43% of opened schools are in the Santiago Metropolitan Region, followed by Los Rios region in the south. No schools are open in the four northern regions where the COVID-19 cases are high. Opened schools include previously reported Easter Island and Juan Fernandez archipelago with a total of 1,152 children. A rapid increase is observed with the number of schools requesting to open, and around 30 more schools are expected to open before end of October.

A public school in the rural area of Bío Bío region was put on fire and burned down, affecting 126 children, on 20 October. The motive nor the responsible for this incident is not known. This was the 4th school burned down in the same area in 2020, following 3 schools in July, affecting a total of 154 children.

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 continued to outreach and communicate with in-country pledge donors during the COVID-19 pandemic. As most of the comunas slowly begun to move out of lockdowns, 50,000 individual donors received communication through SNS to reinforce COVID-19 prevention measures, such as "Wash your reusable masks" and "Keep social distance," etc.

Communication for donors focused on showing concrete results for UNICEF's COVID-19 response in the country and around the world. Positive feedback from donors were received.

The continued DirectTV campaign, broadcasted on the main Chilean television channels, contributed to improve retention rate and acquisition of new donors, transmitting messages of UNICEF's work in COVID-19 and other emergencies in the country and the world.

¹ Source: <https://www.emol.com/noticias/Nacional/2020/10/27/1001915/Mineduc-Unesco-consejo-asesor-clases.html>

² Source: <http://datos.mineduc.cl/dataviews/253515/directorio-de-establecimientos-2019/>

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF continues to support municipalities for the preparation of school reopening

UNICEF, in close coordination with UNESCO, is finalizing the first draft of the protocols for reopening schools and will share with municipalities shortly through a series of webinars. 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.

UNICEF contributes for the Education sector coordination

UNICEF continued to facilitate the organization of a coordination mechanism of the education actors of the civil society in Chile, due to lack of a coordinated response from the civil society to school closure. Co-leads América Solidaria and Educación 2020, both well respected local NGOs, with its Technical Advisor Group (UNICEF, UNESCO, Acción Educar and the University of Chile), the first meeting takes place on 30 October. The mechanism will discuss and present concrete proposals to the MOE regarding the school reopening and distance learning during and after COVID-19 pandemic.

The key representatives of the civil society coordination mechanism participate in the MOE inter-sectoral coordination mechanism, which had been officially launched on 28 October, where UNICEF and UNESCO also participate. An effective coordination among actors from different sectors is expected through these mechanisms to support children's education.

Linking Emergency and Development: immigrant children

COVID-19 pandemic visualized the weaknesses of Chilean legislation for the comprehensive protection of immigrant children and adolescents. The closure of the borders since March due to COVID-19 has resulted in increased number of families, children, and adolescents entering the country through illegal passages, which expose them to conditions of extreme vulnerability, without adequate legal regulations, protocols and/or procedures that ensure their protection. In addition, the prolonged closure of schools posed difficulties for migrant children and their families to access social benefits and emergency aids provided by the Government (including school feeding), especially for children of the heads of household in irregular immigration status.

UNICEF advocates for a sustainable solution to the identified challenges through actively contributing to the Congress' on-going discussion on the new migration law. The Congress has been also debating about the protection mechanisms, migratory regulations, and social benefits for immigrant children and adolescents. UNICEF continues to advocate for the full application of international standards and children's rights, and for the establishment of adequate mechanisms to ensure the protection of immigrant children, especially unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF also advocates for the expedited access to regular immigration and social benefits for immigrant children and their families, regardless of the migration status of their parents or caregivers.

UNICEF also led an heads of inter-agency meeting with UNHCR, UNOHCHR and IOM to coordinate and discuss challenges faced by immigrant children in the northern part of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Rights in Businesses

UNICEF, together with the CERALC project agencies (OHCHR, ILO, and OECD), presented a joint document on participation standards in the National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights to the Center for Sustainability Studies of the Catholic University, which is the independent manager to carry out the evaluation of the Plan, to establish a participation strategy, and to identify relevant issues for the formulation of the future plan. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly delayed the update of the Plan, and despite the pandemic, it is essential that the participation standards for the formulation of public policies are fully applied. Also, the baseline's main results were presented as proposal of emerging issues (which was originally presented in 2019 to the Undersecretariat of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights).

UNICEF continued to support the delivery of materials for the protection and care of children during COVID-19 pandemic. A new Facebook Live was held for the State Copper Company (Codelco) to discuss about its workers' difficulties of supporting children's education during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 7,306 reproductions.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

As the country moves out of lockdown...

As more and more parts of the country come out of lockdown, and people start to resume their activities, UNICEF Chile focused its communication to disseminate messages to prevent COVID-19 infections. [Information with simple and didactic graphics on the correct use of masks](#) was disseminated on UNICEF Chile's Facebook page, and reached 103,400 people and reached 5,000 views.

World Handwashing Day

UNICEF Chile participated in the World Handwashing Day by its staff taking parts in [a hand-washing promotion video](#), singing along with a song by 31 Minutes, UNICEF Chile's new Goodwill Ambassador. The video reached 180,000 people on Facebook and had 17,000 views. The video was also posted on 31 Minutes Twitter account, with 3,400 views. An interview with experts, Dr. Francisca Salas and Dr. Fernando González from MOH, was published about the correct way to hand-washing (see Human Interest Stories below).

Maintaining family tie for hospitalized children

UNICEF promoted a "Closer" campaign ("*Más Cerca*" in Spanish) to maintain the communication and the family tie between hospitalized children and their families during the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic suspended families' visits to hospitals in efforts of preventing the spread of the virus, resulting in devastating psychological and emotional impacts on hospitalized children by cutting them off from their families. UNICEF coordinated with National Pediatricians Association and donated tablets to facilitate children's communication with their families (see the cover photo of this document). The campaign shed light on the invisible challenges that hospitalized children faced during the pandemic, raised awareness of the situation, and reached 1,500,000 people and 19,800 interactions on Facebook. An interview with Dr. María Consuelo Puentes, who led the "Closer" campaign, which allowed hospitalized children and adolescents to take tablets and smartphones so that they can communicate with their parents and relatives (see Human Interest Stories below).

UNICEF's information on donating materials for children in MOH's sanitary residences, such as coloring books, together with COVID-19 prevention messages, reaching 852,000 people and 86,100 interactions on Facebook.

Human interest stories:

- "It is impressive to see that the contact by video call keeps the family and children calm," an interview with Dr. María Consuelo Puentes, a member of the Chilean Society of Pediatric Surgery (in Spanish). <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/es-impresionante-ver-que-el-contacto-por-videollamada-mantiene-la-familia-y-ni%C3%B1os-m%C3%A1s>
- "UNICEF joins the MAS CERCA campaign to support the recovery of hospitalized children and adolescents," by UNICEF Chile. <https://www.unicef.org/chile/comunicados-prensa/unicef-se-suma-campa%C3%B1a-mas-cerca-para-apoyar-recuperaci%C3%B3n-de-ni%C3%B1os-ni%C3%B1as-y>
- "On the surface of our hands we carry a large number of viruses, bacteria and fungi," an interview with Dr. Francisca Salas, MOH Adolescents and Youth Programme, and Dr. Fernando González, MOH Childhood Program of the Life Cycle Department. <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/en-la-superficie-de-las-manos-portamos-un-gran-n%C3%BAmero-de-virus-bacterias-y-hongos>

Next SitRep: 30 November, 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: www.unicef.org/lac

UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

UNICEF Global Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

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