

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

November 2020

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for every child



UNICEF with partners conducted telephone surveys covering nearly 7,000 households in seven countries in the Middle East and North Africa to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on children in the region.



Around 95% of the respondents stated that their children were negatively affected by the consequences of the pandemic.

Mental health and wellbeing



More than half say that their children have been struggling mentally and emotionally.

Half of the respondents stated that their children are deprived of outdoor play and social interaction, and as a result experience anxiety, boredom and stress.



Health Services

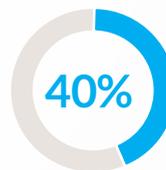
During initial periods of strict lockdowns children did not access health services and immunization.



This was due to fear of infections, restrictions on transportation, and closure of some nearby clinics and primary health care centres.

Education

Many children were not able to benefit from remote learning due to lack in resources (TV sets, computers and internet connection), lack of support from adult members, and difficulties to be in direct contact with teachers.



Expressed concerns over the damages of COVID-19 on the education of their children.

Children's diets and nutrition



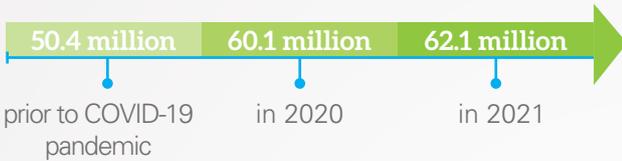
One out of five respondents mentioned a financial impact, specifically, having less money to spend on food.



stated that during the period of strict lockdown, children in the household were not able to access health and nutritious food, at least once.

FAST FACTS FROM 2020

The number of children living in monetary poverty is projected to increase



*According to the most severe impact scenario



To counter the impacts of COVID-19, cash assistance was provided to over **12.5 million** households in nine countries.



It is estimated that more than **3,000 children** in 13 countries in the region were released from detention in response to COVID-19.



To date, UNICEF delivered a total of **83 million** vaccines in the MENA region in 2020.



5.5 million children were reached in the region through immunization campaigns, meanwhile **9.5 million** are still at risk of missing their vaccines against polio and measles.



UNICEF is supporting government across the region to scale up blended learning approaches to combine in person and remote learning and support children recover and accelerate their learning. We continue to support with the safe reopening of schools reaching **28,000 schools** and have developed the “Teachers Preparedness Training Package”, a key resource for teachers with guidance and advice on education and teaching in the time of COVID-19.



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About the surveys

UNICEF and partners conducted telephone surveys covering nearly 7,000 households (with over 12,500 children) in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Syria and Tunisia on the greatest challenges and concerns families face since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the surveys were conducted in April-July 2020.



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