



UNICEF Chile 2020

Reporting Period: July 2020

Chile

## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2

unicef   
for every child

## Highlights

### Situation

- As of July 26, Chile has 347,923 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 9,443 deaths.
- It is considered that the COVID-19 peak in Chile was reached in mid-June.
- According to WHO COVID-19 Dashboard on July 28, Chile is at 5th place in the world for confirmed cases per million people, compared to its 4th place in June, and reports the highest rate in the region (18,200.62), followed by Panama (13,973.58). It is in 2nd place in the region for deaths per million people (480.59), after Peru (552.86).
- On July 19, the Government announced a 5-step deconfinement plan (“Paso a Paso” – Step by Step) as a result of decreased confirmed cases of COVID-19 during the past 5 weeks.
- The entire Greater Santiago has been under lockdown since May 16. After 10 weeks, the lockdown was lifted in 9 communes of Santiago on July 28, with exception of weekends and holidays. Nightly curfews continue.
- Schools reopened in COVID-19 free remote pacific islands of Easter Island and Juan Fernandez archipelago.
- There was a change of Government Cabinet on 29 July, and a new Minister of Social Development and Families was announced, the 3rd Minister and UNICEF’s key counterpart during the last 60 days.

### UNICEF Response

- UNICEF supports the Municipality of Renca in greater Santiago, in the development of protocols for reopening schools, in close coordination with UNESCO.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with “31 Minutos,” a popular Chilean puppet show for children and adolescents, produced 4 videos called “Quarantine 31”, to address about difficult conversations during lockdown.
- The Swedish clothing company H&M donated in Chile 5,100 pieces of clothing as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility actions to keep homeless people warm during the cold winter of the Southern hemisphere.
- COVID-19 brings new opportunities for SENAME’s Family Reunification Programme for institutionalized children.
- UNICEF continued its active engagement with legislative process at the Congress to protect children’s rights.

## Situation in Numbers



**347,923**

Laboratory-confirmed  
COVID-19 cases

[\(Epidemiology Report #37](#)

[COVID-19, 27 July 2020,](#)

[Ministry of Health\)](#)



**9,443**

COVID-19 deaths

[\(Epidemiology Report #37](#)

[COVID-19, 27 July 2020,](#)

[Ministry of Health\)](#)



**3,599,048**

children with schools closed  
nationwide since 18 March,  
except small pacific islands.

[\(Ministry of Education and  
calculation of UNICEF\)](#)

## 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.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### UNICEF supports the preparation for school reopening

UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the Municipality of Renca in greater Santiago, in the development of protocols for reopening schools, in close coordination with UNESCO.

While no date for school reopening is discussed, specific plans are now the responsibility of each of the 345 municipalities in the country, who manage public schools throughout Chile, as announced by the Ministry of Education. Based on the collaboration in the recent years, UNICEF is closely working with their technical team to develop protocols to prepare the school reopening with 4 main pillars: preventive and protective measures (social distancing, hand washing, etc), strengthening mixed learning modalities, support to teachers, and communication with families.

Based on this pilot experience, taking full advantage of existing frameworks and guidelines that UNICEF and partners provide globally, UNICEF Chile plans to build a model which can be shared and replicated by other municipalities.

Schools reopened in COVID-19 free remote pacific islands of Easter Island (974 children) and Juan Fernandez archipelago (178 children) in July. UNICEF is working with UNESCO to support the ongoing process in Easter Island, as 28% of students had not yet returned to school.

### Meet Bodoque and let's talk about difficult conversations with 31 Minutos

UNICEF in collaboration with "31 Minutos," (31 Minutes in Spanish), a very popular Chilean puppet show for children and adolescents, produced 4 videos called "Quarantine 31," to talk about difficult conversations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The great majority of children, except children from small isolated islands (Easter Island and Juan Fernández archipelago), have lived under a strict lockdown during the past 10-12 weeks.

The puppets of "31 Minutos" voice out children's worries and concerns under the lockdown and talk about "Studying at Home," "Pandemic," "Birthday," and "Fear." 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. Bodoque's sense of humour facilitates children to recognize their feelings in a funny simple way, helps adults understand that children have feelings which need to be addressed, and brings a sense of optimism and hope. See Bodoque's [interview with UNICEF](#), and Bodoque's friend Corchetis singing about children's feelings and frustrations in [a song "Tomorrow will be Spring"](#) (note Chile is in the middle of the winter!).

Reactions by children and the public had been overwhelming. Comments from the public about the "Quarantine 31" content include: "...the only good thing that happened in 2020," and "Nothing beats the creation of content by UNICEF Chile," to name just a few.

The videos were distributed through social and traditional media, and the first video "Studying at Home" had 141,000 views on the UNICEF Chile Facebook page and 1.4 million views on the "31 Minutos" Facebook page. The initiative was welcome in other countries in the LAC region and shared widely in the mass media in Mexico.

UNICEF is actively engaging mass media for its dissemination. Starting August, all four videos will be broadcasted on the TV Educa Chile public channel, which had been used to support distance education during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also be broadcasted on Cartoon Network, the cable TV channel with regional reach.

Also read a Human Interest Story of the creator of 31 Minutos: <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/este-es-un-momento-m%C3%A1s-de-nuestra-historia-que-va-pasar>.

The production of videos were made possible thanks to the contribution from various UNICEF National Committees through EMOPS.

Meet Bodoque through the following links:

- Chapter 1 – Studying Home: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=273731507251397>
- Chapter 2 – Pandemics: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=761745961318885>
- Chapter 3 – Birthday: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=892019581289232>
- Chapter 4 – Fear: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4694958440529902>
- Song “Spring” <https://www.facebook.com/unicefchile/videos/747849732697979/>

## Active engagement with legislative process continues at the Congress

Despite the new challenges posed to respond to the negative impact that COVID-19 pandemic brings to children, UNICEF continues its monitoring of legislative processes that affect children’s rights discussed in the Congress.

During July, UNICEF actively participated in the discussion in different Commissions for the draft bills for: 1) the establishment of the comprehensive child protection system in the country; 2) a new Migration Law; and 3) the separation of services currently undertaken by SENAME. Unlike before the pandemic, all of the Commissions meetings and interventions take place remotely.

## H&M Chilean-Swedish collaboration distributes 5,000 pieces of clothing throughout Chile

H&M Chile, the clothing company of Swedish origin, donated 5,100 items of clothing as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility actions, to keep homeless people warm during this cold winter of the Southern hemisphere.

The warm clothes, including coats, sweaters, jackets, and pants, were donated to the temporary shelters for homeless people, including women and adolescents. Since March, UNICEF has been representing international organizations in the Government’s Advisory Committee for the protection of homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee organizes and facilitates the inter-sectoral collaboration of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Ministry of Health, the municipalities, the NGOs, and the private sector, to find practical solutions. Homeless people had been identified as a priority group by the Government under the COVID-19 pandemic due to their socio-economic vulnerability, lack of places to comply with quarantine/isolation, and lack of access to hospitals.

The Advisory Group had contributed to open additional shelters, with special considerations for adolescents and families with children. Many hotels are being used as additional shelters and “sanitary residences” to observe quarantine. Homeless people themselves participated actively in this initiative by sorting out and packing the donations for shipping, and positive feedback had been received. A Chilean community organization, “Movidos x Chile initiative,” led this component.

H&M has been UNICEF’s global partner since 2004, and the initiative is supported by UNICEF, the Swedish Embassy, the Ministry of Social Development and Family, and the Swedish transportation company Scania.

## COVID-19 brings new opportunities for the SENAME’s Family Reunification Programme

UNICEF Chile has been working closely with the Government since 2010 to develop and implement different models of alternative care options to reduce institutionalization of children, to increase support to vulnerable families to avoid separation, and facilitate family reunification. COVID-19 brings new opportunities, successfully linking humanitarian and development work.

Acknowledging the importance of the roles that families play, UNICEF provides support to the National Service for Minors (SENAME) for a gradual reunification with families with “Family Outreach Programme.” Starting with short and weekend stays of the child with his/her family, the visits become longer until both the child and the family feel ready for

total reunification. The process is accompanied closely by a social worker and a psychologist who monitor the child's well-being, the family's capabilities and situation, and assess the surrounding environment, including its effect on the child's behaviour and performance at school.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought new opportunities to facilitate the reintegration of children with their families. The "Family Outreach Programme" adapted new measures to strengthen the ongoing reunification processes of children with their families. When lockdown measures and contagion concerns did not allow children to return to the residential care centres from their temporary visits/stay with families in March, social workers and psychologists started to provide online "virtual visits" to follow up with families and children, and economic assistance was provided to the families whose situation was worsened as a direct effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of May 2020, more than 4,800 children and adolescents live in SENAME's residential care centres, out of which approximately 1,000 are participating in the "Family Outreach Programme." UNICEF's ultimate goal in supporting SENAME is to reduce the time children spend in institutions and increase the number of successful family reunifications.

### "My Home, My Field" cares for the well-being of children's caregivers

The project "My Home, My Field", launched in April 2020 with partner NGO *Futbol Más Foundation*, aims to promote psychosocial wellbeing of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown through videos, infographics, and webinars during 10 weeks. It reached a total of 11,142 children including 2,327 children in residential care centres.

Since children and adolescent's wellbeing is directly affected by their caregiver's wellbeing, in May and June, the project focused on providing tools for self-care, stress management, and conflict resolution for 330 caregivers of SENAME's residential care centres. A special video for the prevention and stress management of the caregivers was prepared with simple day-to-day activities, and more than 70 residential care centre front-line workers participated in a [webinar](#), where they learned about practical tools.

UNICEF also coordinated with the public television station Educa TV, and the [videos](#) are now being broadcasted twice a day. They reach an estimated 4,500 children daily, offering them and their families with recreational and sport activities in small spaces at home during the lockdown.

### Child Rights in Business

Four webinars were organized to encourage the private sector to apply measures to protect children's rights during the COVID-19 pandemic by adopting their work and community support policies. 1,420 participants from 80 companies, Government agencies, and NGOs.

With the Ministry of Energy, a guideline was developed for good practices for the energy sector (generation, transmission and distribution) during the COVID-19 pandemic, in consultation with the unions and companies in the sector. The guideline highlights the importance of relations with the communities in which they operate and emphasizes the importance of taking into consideration the effects of their work on children of these communities.

### Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Chile increased its presence in social media since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF Chile's Facebook followers have increased since December and reached 68,000 (10% increase), Twitter now has 26,400 followers, and Instagram account which opened in January 2020 has reached 8,700 followers. As of mid-July, UNICEF Chile has reached 1,366,530 users on Facebook, 196,121 accounts on Instagram, and gained 106,000 views on Twitter.

The posting of the story of co-responsible parenthood for raising children of miners at Codelco with UNICEF's CRB work (reported in June 2020 SitRep) reached 462,900 views.

Since April, UNICEF Chile appears as one of the “Recognised Health Organisations” of Facebook’s COVID-19 Information Centre, together with Chile’s Ministry of Health and WHO.

See Human Interest Stories in UNICEF Chile website in Spanish:

- "This is just one moment in our history, and it will pass," Álvaro Díaz, the creator of 31 Minutos talks about the production of “Quarantine 31.” <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/este-es-un-momento-m%C3%A1s-de-nuestra-historia-que-va-pasar>
- “Remember, after the winter, spring always comes,” Juan Carlos Bodoque, the main character of 31 Minutos, shares about his life under lockdown. <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/recuerden-que-despu%C3%A9s-del-invierno-siempre-llega-la-primavera>
- “It’s a great idea to bring books closer to children,” Ramón Contreras coordinates the work with teachers “Stories to See and Listen.” <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/es-una-muy-buena-estrategia-para-acercar-los-ni%C3%B1os-la-lectura>
- “Studying at home shows the major inequality of our education system,” Adolescent Antonia Carrizo shares her experience during lockdown and how she is making the best out of it. <https://www.unicef.org/chile/historias/el-estudio-en-casa-muestra-las-principales-desigualdades-que-tiene-nuestro-sistema>

## Next SitRep: August 31, 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: [www.unicef.org/lac](http://www.unicef.org/lac)

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

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

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