Safeguarding the Right to Learn
for every child

UNICEF Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia
Sarah Fuller, Education consultant
School closures persist across the region

15 M
learners in countries where schools are closed

65.7 M
learners in countries where schools are partially closed

1 in 2 children likely could not be reached by computer or television-based learning in ECAR countries

School closure data from UNESCO: https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse
Challenges & opportunities in distance and digital learning

Accurate, timely, disaggregated data
Reaching the most marginalized learners
Systems and capacity for resilience
Partnerships & innovation
Inclusion, equity, and safety by design
Integration of support within instructional core of schools
Digital and pedagogical competencies
Evidence generation & agile development
Enabling environment & accountability
• Communication and advocacy
• Prioritization of the most at-risk
• Capacity strengthening (e.g., EMIS to identify dropout risk)

“No effort should be spared to keep schools open or prioritize them in reopening plans.”

- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore
Monitoring learning and addressing learning gaps

- Strengths-based formative assessment
- Targeted catch-up efforts
- Creative and alternative student groupings and individualized pathways
- Linkages with longer-term reforms

Challenges and Opportunities for the Child Protection Systems

UNICEF Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia
Phenny Kakama & Ina Verzivolli
1. Restriction measures has limited case management: outreach, identification, evaluation, referral and follow-up of cases;
2. Child protection services were not *immediately* considered essential;
3. Child Protection systems were not designed to work in emergencies, in traditional non-emergency countries;
4. Coordination among the different sectors was interrupted;
5. Disruption of social services for children and families:
   1. e.g. services for children with disabilities
   2. Limitation in some cases in providing alternative care to children due to COVID-19;
   3. Other face-to-face social services in support of children and families
COVID-19: A challenge turned into opportunity?

1. CP systems and services recognized as **vital in emergencies**;
2. **Shock-responsive CP System**: Adaptation and digitalization of CP case management processes;
3. **Mental health support** services have been increasingly strengthened and recognized as crucial – online platforms have been crucial;
4. **Child helplines** have played a key role and governments are paying more attention to integrating them into the child protection system;
5. **Coordination mechanisms**: opportunity to strengthen or establish;
6. **Online training** was widely used and increased the training possibilities thanks to digitalization;
7. **De- Institutionalisation**: is possible when there is a will;
8. **Digitalization of services**
9. **Child Rights Impact Assessment**: A process that has just started and will enable an understanding on the impact of COVID-19 on CRs. → in partnership with ENOC.
10. The use of **alternatives to detention** and non-custodial options.