Adolescent & Youth Engagement in COVID19 Response & Recovery

Allison Morris, Adolescent Participation Consultant, UNICEF East Asia & Pacific Regional Office

Malti Gandhi, Chief, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, UNICEF China

July 3, 2020
Outline

• Impact of COVID19 on young people in the region

• UN guidance on engaging with young people in response & recovery

• UNICEF China – engaging millions of adolescents and youth during lockdown and beyond

• Considerations, challenges & resources
COVID19: Working with and for young people

Available at: https://www.youthcompact.org/the-compact-response
Young people & COVID-19

- Disrupted health services
- Increasing levels of anxiety

- Not all young people are accessing remote education
- Certain groups, such as girls, are less likely to return to school

- Increased risk for domestic violence
- Potential for rise in child labor and child marriage

- More likely to work in the informal sector and to face layoffs without social protection
- Rising youth unemployment

- Small civil society organizations are struggling to continue services due to restrictions in movement/gatherings and funding shortages
- Rather than putting participation on hold, adolescent participation can make a difference in providing quality services in humanitarian response
Youth participation: Recommendations for action during COVID19 era

- Maintain connections with young people
- Support access to youth-friendly content and work with young people to develop content.
- Encourage inclusive information-sharing
- Tackle the spread of inaccurate information, debunk myths, confront stigma
- Engage young people in all steps of COVID19 response and recovery.
Addressing Mental Health Needs of Adolescents during COVID-19

UNICEF CHINA
July 2020
The China context

146 million adolescents aged 10-19 in China
85% estimated to be under lockdown or barely left their home

For 8 weeks, adolescents refrained from going out or gathering

27-36% reported feeling scared, worried about the outbreak or being infected, weeks after lockdown.

Impact of the outbreak on their schooling
- Passing the virus to family members
- Social unrest
- Loneliness
- Romantic relationships
- Family issues
What we did?

Basic info on COVID-19

Adolescent mental health

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Total reach: 12 million
Partnerships with a tech company (Kuaishou)

1. Online challenge
   - 11 million page views
   - 4,600 videos/User-Generated Content (UGC) uploaded

2. Online livestream
   - Live streaming on indoor exercise
   - 8.00-9.20 p.m., 27th Mar
   - 447,000+ participated in the 80 mins session

Strategy to motivate adolescent participation
   - AR-based filer to make it fun
   - Big data analytics for targeted reach

Adolescents participation with leveraging the power of business and markets
What did we learn and where do we go from here?

- Adolescent mental health - key area of concern both during and post COVID
- Adolescent engagement and data – key to understanding the problem and addressing it appropriately
- The potential of partnerships to maximize accessibility and reach
- Being prepared: adolescent mental health emergency preparedness plan
Thank You!

Malti Gandhi,
Deputy Representative a.i.,
Chief of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

UNICEF CHINA, July 2020
Considerations, challenges, resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital (gender) divide</th>
<th>Online Safety &amp; Protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing inclusive approaches</td>
<td>Opportunity for Innovation &amp; Sustainability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources:**
- UN Youth Compact - COVID19: Working with and for young people
- Adolescent Kit for Innovation & Expression (COVID19 Adaptation)
- Youth Toolkit for Spreading Awareness & Taking Action on COVID19
Thank you