



internship



CHALLENGES FACED BY THE GRASS-ROOT CHILDREN UNDER THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS IN HONG KONG

ABOUT UNICEF

UNICEF concerns the rights of every child including the children and adolescents.
Health # A fair chance # Safety



STATISTICS IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong has about **92700** sub-divided units

Number of poor children in Hong Kong: **170400**

About **37487** poor children lived in an area of 62.4 square feet (Census and Statistic Department, 2019)

FOR EVERY CHILD, HYGIENE 童你抗疫

In the campaign, UNICEF HK targets to provide free hygiene products and Kitchen-Toilet disinfection services to the children and their family who lived in subdivided home in Hong Kong.

HOW THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS HARMS THE CHILD RIGHTS OF THE GRASSROOT CHILDREN

RIGHTS TO SURVIVAL

2. The living environment is unhygienic > the shared kitchen and toilet > increase the risk of disease transmission

1. The price of antiviral products has risen to an unaffordable level + the mask faces shortage in the market > lack of hygiene supplies > some children have to use the mask repeatedly > put their safety at risk



RIGHTS TO DEVELOPMENT

4. Poor living environment shows to others > being labeled by the others > discrimination > lower self-esteem of the children

3. Most classes held online > lack of electronic gadgets > cannot join the classes > affected their right to be educated



RIGHTS TO PROTECTION

5. Class suspension + nursery and youth centres are closed + working parents > children stay at home alone

6. Social distancing + school and youth centre closed > cannot participate in outdoor activities



RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATIONS



WHAT UNICEF PROVIDES TO HELP WITH THE CHALLENGES

DISTRIBUTE

- Distribute free hygiene products & disinfection services for the disadvantaged children and their family in Hong Kong

COOPERATE

- Recruited over local 150 volunteers to help
- Cooperated with over 30 local NGO in Hong Kong

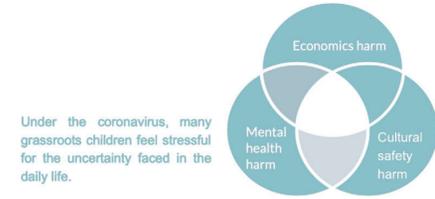
EDUCATE

- Messages on leaflets:
 - how to wash their hands properly
 - how to keep their living space clean
- Educate the communities + implement the prevention campaigns > tackle the misinformation and misconceptions on hygiene alertness to the public

WHY DO CHILD RIGHTS ISSUES DESERVE OUR CONCERNS?

1. The **vulnerability** of the grassroots children
 - Children need to spend most of the time at home due to E-learning arrangement
 - They are difficult to play outdoors (The hygiene concerns outdoor)
 - Parents concerned about the **cost** being outside is greater than stay at home
 - Many of the children are forced to stay at home
 - Under prolonged hours living and studying in the **over-crowded** space, children lack the opportunities to socialize with their peers and engage with physical activities
 - Harm the children **physical** and **mental well-beings** (Solari & Mare, 2012)
2. Social harms faced by the grassroots children
The outbreak of coronavirus brings several harms that negatively affecting children in various aspects.

Several of grassroots children family members are laid off due to the economic downturn, it will bring economic harm towards the grassroots family.



Under the coronavirus, many grassroots children feel stressful for the uncertainty faced in the daily life.

The urban slum area could be regarded as an deteriorating and unhygienic environment. Children who lived in a subdivided flat likely be socially excluded by their peers or being viewed as the high-risk groups.

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE BENEFITED IN THE CAMPAIGN:

- UNICEF hopes to distribute Hygiene Kits to over **10000** grassroots families
- Over **46000** masks, 23000 pieces of antibacterial soap, 46,000 bottles of hand sanitizers and 23000 antiviral leaflets were distributed in the first month.

LIMITATIONS OF THE CAMPAIGN

- Can not address the structured problems in HK (Eg. Housing problems, poverty problems)
- The services and visits are once time only
- Cannot expose to every grassroots family due to the lack of promotions > Due to the limited resources and manpower, how to utilize the materials and help with the needy are challenges faced by UNICEF > Besides, UNICEF also need to concern and prioritize the global and local agenda to spread their missions and visions

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3. Socially constructed problems
 - Children can be regarded as our **future generations** and they share the sense of **purity**, that deserve more protections for their personal growth
 - Based on **humanitarian moralities**, helping the vulnerable groups to address their horrifying conditions can be viewed as **social norms** (Weinberg, 2009)
 - The condition is not faced by a single child but share with a huge number of child victims. More are needed to be done to tackle the challenges and protect child rights.
 - Media reports about the campaign will capture the reader's attentions. The general public would share the **sympathy** towards the grassroots children
 - The **insufficient social resources** faced by the grassroots children and their family can be viewed as social problem that need to be addressed



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