Dear colleagues,

Greetings from the Civil Society Partnerships team. This e-mail finds many of you in the frontline of the response to the novel Coronavirus – COVID 19. Given the rapid developments of this health crisis, UNICEF would like to maintain a channel of communication for relevant updates to our civil society partners.

Starting this week, we will send you weekly updates on our response to the crisis, as well as information on webinars and opportunities for collaboration. UNICEF keeps adding the most up-to-date resources in several languages to the webpage www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19. We would like to draw your attention to the key messages below and ask you to share them with your networks. Accurate, timely and simple information for the public is essential to respond and control this emergency.

Understanding too many sources of information can be confusing, we strongly encourage you to use and share UNICEF or WHO key messages. Please use and reuse our documents and guidance and anything you find on the UNICEF website. We are updating our website and assets daily so please keep checking for resources and do get in touch if there are additional resources which you would find useful to share accurate information with partners and communities.

Four top-line messages to consider:

1. Fact over fiction: UNICEF reminds the public to seek information about the outbreak from reliable sources and not to pass on unverified information from mass media and social media posts.
2. Handwashing with soap, when done correctly, is critical in the fight against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). It is one of the cheapest, most effective things you can do to protect yourself and others against coronavirus, as well as many other infectious diseases.

3. Science over stigma: As we work to protect children from harmful viruses, we must also protect them from stigma and abuse. During disease outbreaks, it’s more important than ever to spread kindness and support each other.

4. Secondary impacts of the outbreak: As schools shut down, it is critical that children’s access to learning, health, nutrition and protection services is not affected.

UNICEF’s dedicated website <www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19> is daily updating resources on:

- Handwashing and good hygiene practices
- How to talk to children and young people. We have advice for parents and teachers.
- Advice on mental health
- Education
- Child protection

Some highlights include:

- Working from Home: UNICEF Executive Director’s video diary: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzfcpxK7Y8rThIAlQpFBkTs0VfYoLdY38](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzfcpxK7Y8rThIAlQpFBkTs0VfYoLdY38)
UNICEF is also publishing technical guidance for practitioners and program colleagues. You can find guidance on the protection of children’s learning and child protection here. Please also check our press center where all new press releases and official UNICEF statements will be posted. Visit:

Warmly,
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