One UN: Building a Better Future Together

Understanding the impact of a pandemic on people in China



UNITED NATIONS CHINA

Introduction



As an upper-middle income country and the second largest economy in the world, the last months of 2019 saw China marking 40 years since reform and opening, and continuing a transition from rapid economic growth to a more balanced pursuit of 'high quality development,' including environmental and social sustainability and in ways that aligned with the global 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Introduction

As SARS-nCOV-2 erupted in the first six months of 2020, life is now remarkably different to the world we remember from 2019. As COVID-19 infections spread around the world, countries and communities have experienced lockdowns, job loss, economic and educational uncertainty, and loss of loved ones and family.

In China, people in Wuhan and eventually across the country took on unprecedented social and movement restrictions as health authorities raced to control a virus with no known treatments or vaccines. The virus has tested the nation's health systems, delayed progress on poverty reduction, and interrupted years of economic growth.

At the same time, throughout this outbreak communities, organizations and individuals have demonstrated resilience, innovation, and community outreach – essential ingredients are enabling the country to withstand the worst shocks of COVID-19 and to begin efforts to build better systems and societies.

From the earliest days of the outbreak, the UN in China has been deeply engaged with our counterparts in government and across communities in China. Our collaboration has involved direct response to the health crisis, as well as care for vulnerable populations, partnership with employers to ensure safe workplaces, and an eye to agricultural and environmental impacts of the pandemic.

Acting as one UN, agencies have been working with our partners across China to Protect Our Health, Care for the Vulnerable, and Build a Better Future.

Even as China responds to cluster outbreaks and manages the return to economic and social routines, the UN in China is committed to collaborating with government and partners to ensure the post-COVID-19 society leaves no one behind, ensures rights and dignity for all persons, and rebuilds systems and institutions that ensure sustainability and resilience.

It is only in partnership – between individuals, across communities, sectors, and nations – that we will prevail against COVID-19. The UN in China is committed to building a better future, together.

Introduction



Snapshot of an outbreak

Impact on People

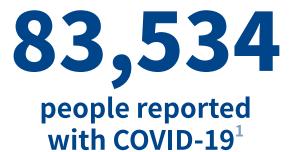
between January-June 2020







More than



78,479 people recovered

from COVID-19²

90M

people in China tested for COVID-19³

1. http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/yqtb/202007/a98e49570be24eaf88de98e6e6217fc8.shtml

- 2. http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/yqtb/202007/a98e49570be24eaf88de98e6e6217fc8.shtml
- 3. https://www.21ic.com/article/815961.html

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Snapshot of an outbreak

Impact on Community



1.73M

fewer new urban jobs were added in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019⁴



An estimated

180M

children had been out of school or were learning online⁵



Rural migrant workers decreased by



in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019⁶

4. http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-07/17/content_76281613.htm

5. http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_sjzl/s5990/201909/t20190929_401639.html

6. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/zhibo1/20200716fbh3/index.htm

One UN: Protecting our Health



One UN: Protecting our Health

Since early January, as scientists and researchers were racing to determine which virus was causing the outbreak, the UN in China has been a part of the health response. The World Health Organization (WHO) worked closely with Chinese health experts to develop some of the earliest guidance for doctors and hospitals regarding testing and treatment of the virus, develop the first population

One UN: Protecting our Health

communications for personal protection and prevention, and develop guidance for employers, schools, and various sectors to protect against viral transmission.

As the pandemic accelerated, the virus increasingly imposed an additional impact on people who may already struggle to access health services – often women, children and adolescents; people living with HIV or other chronic diseases; and people without regular access to care. The disruption to health systems globally threatens to unwind decades of progress against maternal and child mortality, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, noncommunicable diseases, mental health, polio and many other of the most urgent health threats. The indirect detrimental effects of COVID-19 on these groups may be greater than the number of deaths due to the virus itself.

Working together, the UN in China worked to highlight these and other issues affecting our health in China, and to bring these lessons to other countries.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20066

