

TRADUZIONE RAPIDA 1

UNICEF DIRECTOR on a report on health and children. Children and adolescents are often the first victims of development problems. Despite remarkable progress in the past, there are still many issues that require our attention

Good afternoon. I'm delighted to join you today for the launch of this important report. Let me begin by congratulating all UNICEF staff for their exceptional work. I am grateful for the contributions and expertise of the members of the Commission from around the world. As this report shows, we've seen real progress in improving child health, but we also face serious challenges.

Just to give you an idea: close to 9 in 10 children born today receive vaccines that protect them against some leading childhood killers. Hopefully we'll soon be able to protect children and adults from the new coronavirus.

But this rosy picture masks shocking inequalities and injustice. I have just returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is a country where nearly one in 10 babies will not reach their fifth birthday. I don't need to tell you that this is unacceptable.

Additionally, climate change poses an existential threat to every child's health and future. When climate emergencies strike, children suffer the most. Young people around the world are asking leaders to act. It is time to listen.

We, as adults, must respond now. We must ensure we leave them a world with the conditions necessary for children to not only survive, but thrive, and build the future they deserve. Our children, our young people, deserve better.

I suggest that we focus on child health if we are to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes meeting the needs of older children and adolescents. We cannot stop caring about children once they turn 5 years of age.

Also, we must confront the challenges posed by climate change, urbanization and environmental degradation. Because This new agenda cannot be the responsibility of one international agency alone. If Unicef works in isolation, results will only be partially satisfactory. We need the

engagement of all relevant sectors, working together; and in partnership with civil society, communities and most importantly,