UNICEF response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Global overview of the COVID-19 situation and impact

➤ As of 28 January, more than 100 million COVID-19 cases and 2.1 million deaths were officially reported in 215 countries and territories.

➤ The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global health, humanitarian, socioeconomic and human rights crisis.

➤ There has been a significant interruption in provision of basic services globally:

  o There was a 30 per cent reduction in global coverage of essential nutrition services.
  o At least 55 vaccine-preventable disease campaigns in 31 countries were postponed.
  o School closures affected nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries.

UNICEF's response strategy and key results in coordination with WHO and partners

UNICEF's multisectoral response in global public health emergencies

Priority 1: **Support the public health response to reduce transmission and mortality**
> ➤ Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) – 3 billion people reached
> ➤ Infection prevention and control (IPC) – 2.4 million health workers trained in IPC
> ➤ Data collection and social research

Priority 2: **Respond to the immediate socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through continuity of basic services**
> ➤ Adaptation of service provision – 274 million children reached with remote learning
> ➤ Increased support to national systems

Priority 3: **Advocacy**

Priority 4: **Support the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator partnership**

Key challenges

1. Confronting unprecedented logistical challenges

2. Limited humanitarian access and challenges faced in implementation and monitoring of programmes

3. Protecting the continuity, utilization and safety of vital basic services

4. Establishing the centrality of protection (including gender-based violence concerns) in the COVID-19 response

5. Consistently delivering for gender equality in the response

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Key lessons learned

1. Preparedness

2. Working through local responders

3. Mobilizing flexible funding

4. Using technology to enhance programme delivery and monitoring

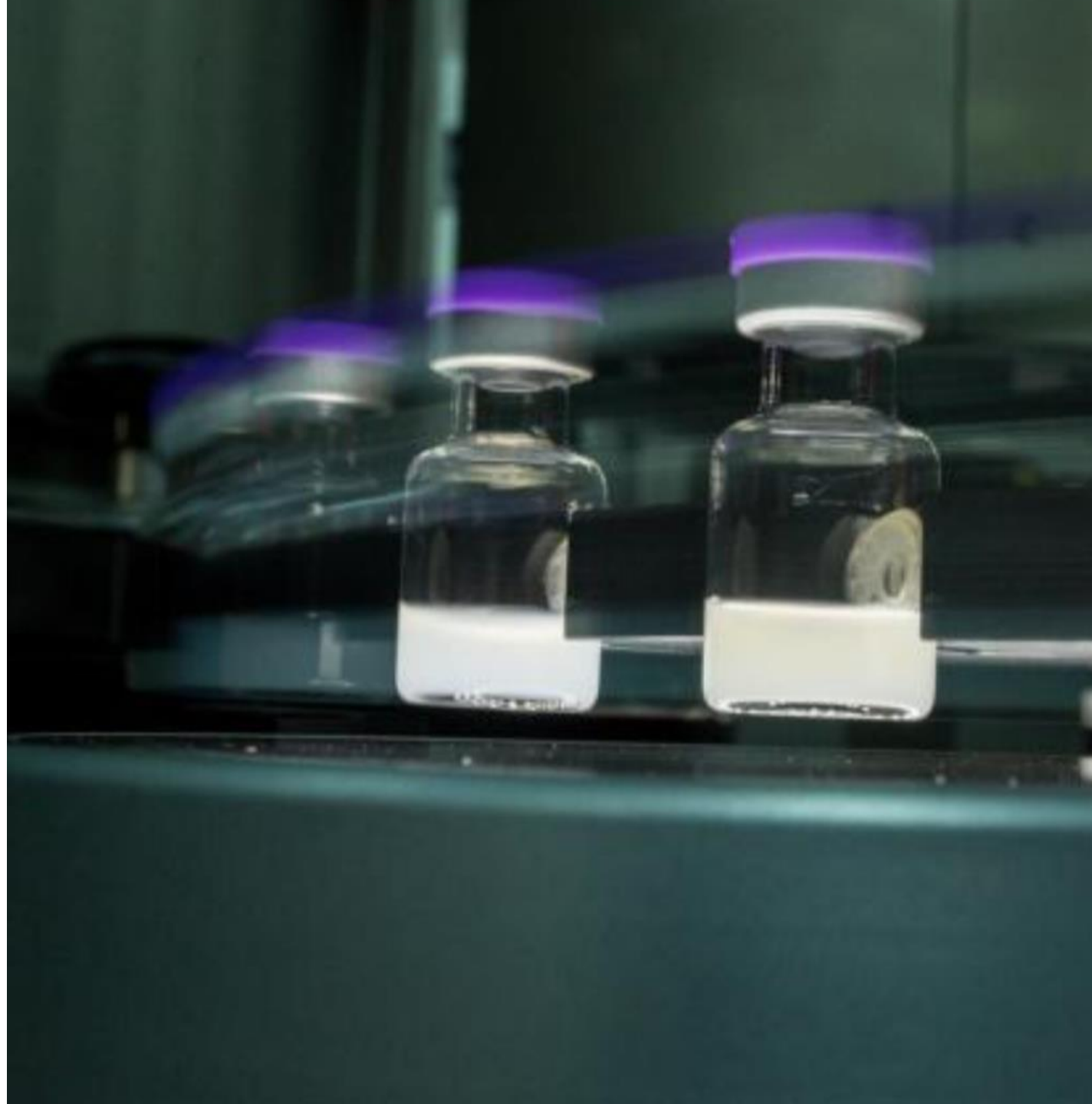5. Leveraging UNICEF emergency systems and humanitarian-development linkages

Programming towards 2030: Reflections

➢ Mobilizing global action for every child everywhere

➢ Investing in shock-resilient families, communities and systems

➢ Digital opportunities

➢ Agile and adaptive programmes

ACT-A

➤ Three pillars
- o vaccine
- o therapeutics
- o diagnostics partnerships

➤ Co-leading Country Readiness and Delivery workstream with WHO

➤ Advocating, resourcing and supporting country readiness, including comprehensive response in therapeutics, diagnostics and WASH in health facilities

➤ Strengthening efforts to build trust and manage information, improve primary health care and health systems and introduce innovations

Thank You