



Health Promoting Schools and Schooling in the WHO European Region in the time of Covid-19

Dr Martin Weber, Programme Manager, Child and Adolescent Health

29 October 2020

COVID-19 and schools , WHO activities

- High-level briefing in EURO, 31 Aug 2020 – participation of SHE
- SHE is part of the EURO Technical Advisory Group
- Creating a living platform advising Member States
- Leading to high level meeting end of November

Safe schooling in the time of COVID-19

Towards a consensus on safe schooling in the European Region during the COVID-19 pandemic

High-level meeting jointly organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and Ministry of Health, Italy, 31 August 2020

Background Working Paper to guide Member State Discussion

ation

Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19

Annex to Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19

14 September 2020



World Health Organization

- ~~Level of~~ Level of SARS-COV-2 transmission
- Community measures
- School measures
- Classroom measures
- Individual measures

Interventions likely to be of **overall benefit** to **infection control AND child health**

- Health literacy of children, adolescents and school staff
- Improvement in school environment
 - Water and sanitation, indoor air, smaller classes
- Availability of a well-trained school nurse
 - also providing mental health support, access to support services
- Active transport to school
 - Walking and cycling

SHE can be outspoken to advocate and promote them

Problematic interventions being adopted currently of
low or no value for infection control

Examples

- Spraying of the environment with disinfectant
- Excessive disinfection of surfaces (rather than cleaning)
- Excessive hand washing leading to sore hands

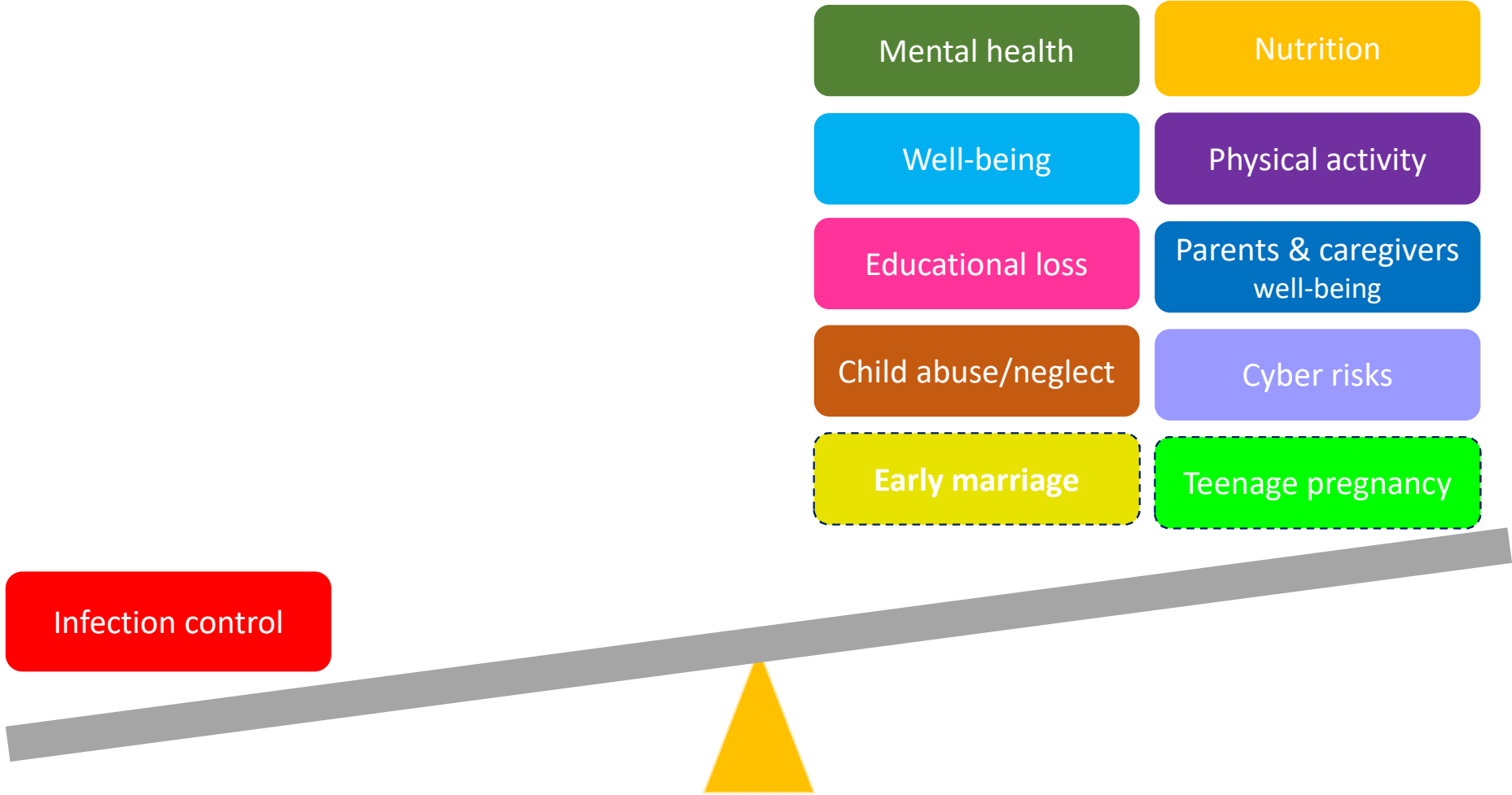
Improve health literacy of school and local authorities, journalists

SHE can be outspoken to recommend against

Interventions proposed for infection control with **potentially adverse effects** on child health and well-being

- School closure
- Limiting contact between children
- Wearing masks
 - Outside classes
 - In classes
- Closing areas and activities
 - Play, sports, canteen, toilets
- Ventilation
- Reducing number of lessons and school days
- Screening for illness, temperature

Critical challenges to school re-opening in Europe – The balance in public debate



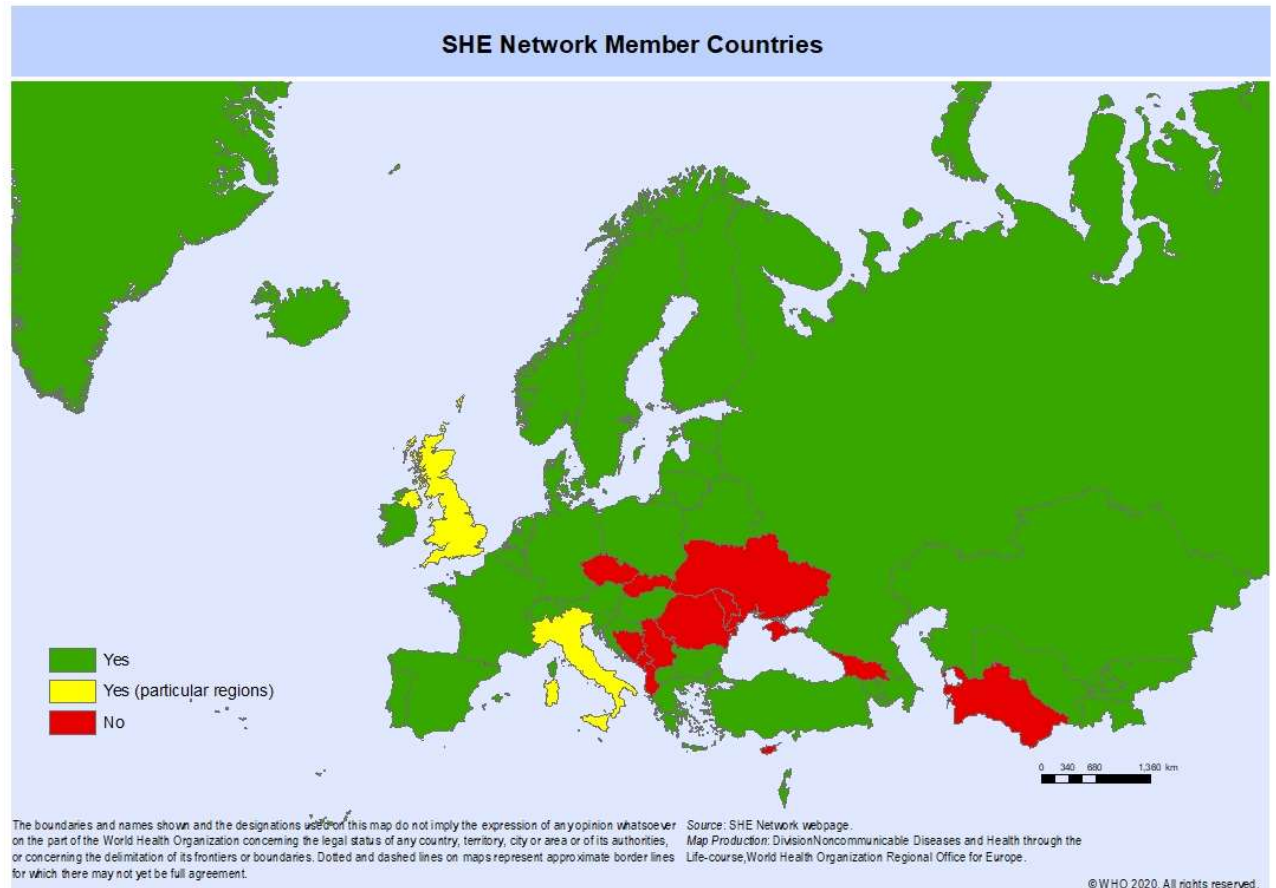
HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS IN CIS COUNTRIES

1. Collaboration with SHE secretariat and SHE EECA/Moscow
 1. Regular NC EECA meetings
 2. SHE Research group broadened with Russian-speaking group
 3. Translation of updated SHE manual and tools in Russian
 4. Adaptation of SHE manual 2.0 and translation in national languages
 5. Joint country missions to support SHE pilot projects in EECA countries
2. KAZ national scaling up in all regions with 950 schools with implementation of SHE whole-school approach action plans. 1st national conference in June 2020
3. School reopening has been addressed in national and international workshops (MDA, KAZ, TKM)

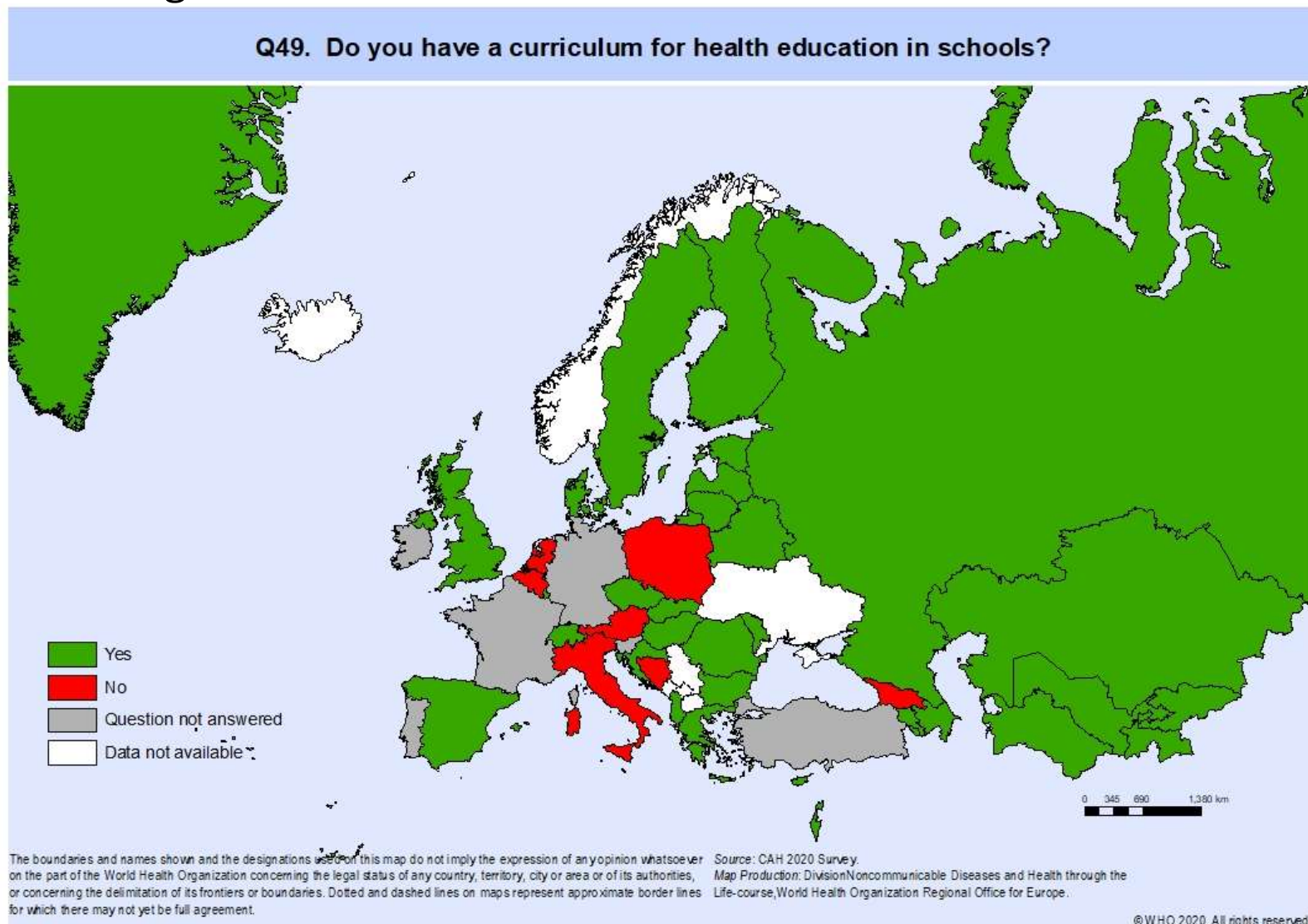


Schools for health in Europe (SHE)

- A network of health promoting school associations in 42 member countries: EU and EECA
- European network since 1992
- Focus: making HPS an integral part of policy development in education and health sector, taking a whole school approach
- <https://www.schoolsforhealth.org/>



Countries having a curriculum for health education at schools



IMPROVING NATIONAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Assessment and Improving School Health Services in the WHO European Region

Overall goal - to formulate recommendations for improving SHS and support development of national action-oriented plans on strengthening SHS

- Joint Project on Assessment and Improving School Health Services in the WHO European Region (WHO EURO and Russian Federation)
- Assessment using designed tools is in progress in 9 EECA countries



Monitoring of European CAH strategy implementation

Strategy report 2018 - Situation of child and adolescent health in Europe:

Provides detailed information

- on the state of child and adolescent health
- related policies

Country feedback and country profiles

All information accessible European Health Information Gateway

→ <https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/datasets/cah/>

Strategy final report 2020 submitted to Regional Committee Sep 2020

Situation of child and adolescent health in Europe



Overview of health policies according to the CAH Baseline survey 2016

1. CAH governance and strategy

Achievements

- There is intersectoral and cross-governmental planning for CAH



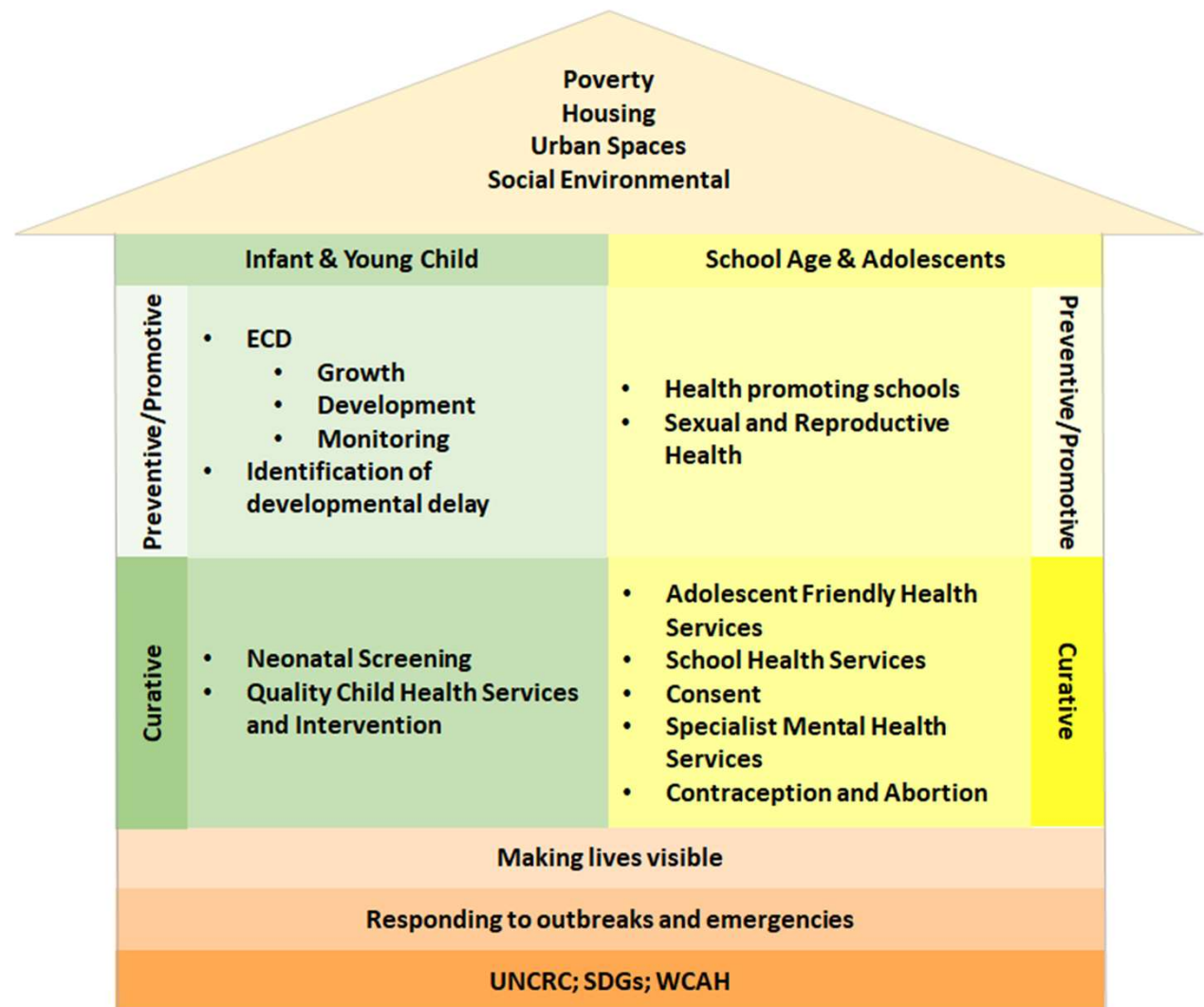
Possible areas for action

- There is no national CAH strategy



A new strategy for child and adolescent health

- Building on the achievements of the previous strategies
- Addressing its shortcomings
- Converting problem statements into positive standards to achieve
- Developed with stakeholder involvement (experts and youth)
- Moving to a Member States consultation
- Leading us under the SDGs to 2030



Some areas for future work

- HBSC report launched, taking it into HPS
- Sharing information on COVID and HPS
- Moving with the COVID opportunities and sharing experiences
 - Enhance health literacy of children, adolescents and school staff
 - Mental health
- Expand SHE network in the Region