The Story about the Children Storybook on COVID-19
Sara’s mum is her hero because she is the best mum and the best scientist in the world. But even Sara’s mum cannot find a cure for the coronavirus.

“What does COVID-19 look like?” Sara asked her mum.

“COVID-19, or the coronavirus, is so tiny we can’t see it,” said her mum. “But it spreads in the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick, and when they touch people or things around them. People who are sick get a fever and a cough and can have some trouble breathing.”

“So we can’t fight it because we can’t see it?” Sara asked.

“We can fight it,” said Sara’s mum. “That’s why I need you to be safe, Sara. The virus affects many kinds of people, and everyone can help us fight it. Children are special and they can help too. You need to stay safe for all of us. I need you to be my hero.”
Structure of IASC MHPSS Reference Group

Global

- GCCG
- Results Groups
- Donor MHPSS Group
- UN Peacebuilding architecture
- CP Alliance
- Standby Partners
- OCHA

OPAG and IASC Secretariat

Co-Chairs WHO & IFRC

MHPSS RG members

Membership

- 60 full members
- 11 Observers
- 10 Donor organisations

Country level

MHPSS Technical Working Groups in 50 countries in humanitarian contexts.
Setting inter-agency standards in MHPSS operations

Composite term and definition

- protecting or promoting psychosocial well-being
- preventing or treating mental health conditions.

Intervention pyramid (Adapted from IASC 2007)

Examples:
- Clinical mental health care (whether by PHC staff or by mental health professionals)
- Basic emotional and practical support to selected individuals or families
- Activating social networks
- Supportive child-friendly spaces
- Advocacy for good humanitarian practice: basic services that are safe, socially appropriate and that protect dignity

Clinical services

Focused psychosocial supports

Strengthening community and family supports

Social considerations in basic services and security

IASC MHPSS Guidelines and guidance for the field
IASC MHPSS Reference Group response to COVID-19

**MHPSS Coordination calls**

- **30** TCs for global MHPSS focal points for MHPSS RG Agencies.
- **11** TCs for Chairs of country level MHPSS TWGs in humanitarian emergencies.

**Languages and accessible formats**

- **24** languages
- **8** languages
- **34** languages
- **143** Languages and 50+ accessible formats
Translations and adaptations

Storybook available in

143 languages
50+ multimedia adaptations and accessible formats

61 of the languages are spoken in humanitarian settings
53 languages are considered indigenous or local languages
111 of the translations represent languages of low- and middle-income countries

Languages spoken in

India:
Hindi, Urdu, Assamese, Gujarati, Malayalam, Marathi, Telugu, Meiti, Mayek, Kannada

South Sudan:
Juba Arabic, Dinka, Nuer and Barri

Uganda:
Luganda, Acholi, Lugbara, Lhukonzo, Adhola, Runyankore, Swahili, Kinyarwanda

Translations and adaptations have been produced by

- UN organizations
- Universities
- International non-governmental organizations
- Professional associations
- Governments
- Non-governmental organizations and local organizations
- Other

Translations

12%
10%
14%
17%
12%
17%
19%

Adaptations

13%
4%
17%
22%
26%
## Translations and adaptations

### Most-viewed adaptations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative animation by Stanford Center for Digital Health team</th>
<th>Filipino animation by the World Health Organization</th>
<th>Spanish reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.4 million views</strong></td>
<td><strong>346,000 views</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,371 views</strong></td>
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<th>Storytelling for young children by the Korean Psychological Association</th>
<th>English reading with singer and musician Howard Donald, by the World Health Organization</th>
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<td><strong>198,290 views</strong></td>
<td><strong>52,369 views</strong></td>
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### Sign languages

- Sign language
  - Vietnamese
    - by UNICEF

- Sign language and closed captioning
  - by Humanity & Inclusion in Arabic

- Sign language
  - Korean
    - by the Korean Psychological Association

- Sign language
  - Indonesian
    - by BaKTI and UNICEF

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<tr>
<th>Read alouds</th>
<th>Audio files</th>
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<td>Danish</td>
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<td>Uzbek</td>
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<td>Waha</td>
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The official *My Hero is You* IASC webpage was viewed 346,662 times between April and October 2020.
Launching day 9 April 2020 - Global media uptake

Coverage by UN agencies

The Secretary-General of the United Nations issued a UN Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Mental Health in which the storybook My Hero is You is featured on page 12.

Worldwide coverage

CNN
Forbes
malaymail
World Economic Forum

Clutch
marie claire

The Sundaily
SABC News
The Hindu

FIRSTPOST

The New York Times
BBC World News

EL PAÍS

The Conversation

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings
World map showing where the storybook is available in the countries official language(s) so far

- Coverage of all official languages in the country
- Partial coverage of official languages in the country
- None

My Hero is You is available in the official languages of 168 of the 194 UN Member States
My Hero is You reached many readers from around the world
My Hero is You Actions for Heroes

- Accompaniment to My Hero is You
- Supports caregivers and teachers to have heart-to-heart chats with children based on ideas raised in the book
- Also functions as an overall guide to support adults as they care for children during the pandemic
My Hero is You 2021 Edition

• To address the concerns of children during the current phase of the pandemic, the IASC MHPSS RG is embarking on the 2021 edition of the storybook

• Again, we are seeking feedback from children, their parents and other caregivers and teachers through an iterative and participatory process

• We are using various methods to understand the stressors and coping methods of families and children in the current context and to explore families’ issues related to coping with remote education, activities in school, and planning for “school holidays” and livelihood challenges

Examples of the many messages we received requesting a My Hero is You sequel.

Teacher, Brazil
“My students would love to have a similar story that addresses the continuing challenges like not seeing family for a long time now”

Child, Ukraine
“I want to know from Ario when coronavirus will be over”

Parent, Zimbabwe
“I wish Ario would touch upon the intensified family dynamics due to lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions”
My Hero is You 2021 Edition, development process

• Based on the views of children, parents and teachers, a panel of experts has been developing a story framework that is continuously updated and tested.

1. Qualitative targeted surveys and FGDs
   • Targeted sites and populations: United Kingdom, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Nigeria, Portugal, Brazil, NW Syria, Mozambique, Greece, children with disabilities, children living in humanitarian settings
   • N= 380

2. Quantitative global surveys
   • Widely disseminated and available in 9 languages
   • N=1374
   • Still open

3. Pilot-testing of draft version in countries
   • Simultaneous process with the global surveys
   • Myanmar, Ukraine, Nigeria, Turkey, Portugal, Brazil, Philippines, Venezuela, Fiji
   • Ongoing

Picture 1. Qualitative phase. FGD with children, NW Syria


Picture 3. Pilot testing phase. Group of children read the draft version, Philippines.
My Hero is You 2021 Edition, development process

• The global surveys to understand stressors and coping methods of families and children in the current context are still open. Find the links to the surveys for here: https://www.who.int/news/item/01-06-2021-my-hero-is-you-one-year-on-planning-for-a-sequel-gets-underway

• Launch of the new story based on the views of children, teachers and families is planned for Q3 2021

For more information or any questions please send an email to: mhpss.refgroup@gmail.com