Helping those who need it most – UNICEF during the COVID-19 pandemic

1 **Match the words (1-6) with their definitions (A-G). Be careful! There is one definition that you do not need to use.**

1	a pandemic	A	when you go back to a situation you were in before
2	a billion	B	a situation when a disease affects people all over the world
3	a priority	C	the people who make the decisions about a country's laws and taxes
4	a government	D	an important person in an organisation
5	a return	E	1,000,000,000 (a million million)
6	an official	F	the biggest part of a plan
		G	something important, which you have to do first

2 **Read the text and answer the questions (1-4).**

UNICEF stands for the United Nations Children's Fund, which has been working to improve the lives of children and mothers since 1946. It looks for ways to help young people who face great problems and difficulties wherever they are in the world.

One of the most recent problems has been the COVID-19 pandemic, which has changed the world for the worse in many ways. It has, for example, had a negative effect on the way children learn. To slow down the spread of the disease, young people in many countries were told to have classes online. UNICEF numbers state that 1.6 billion children all over the world haven't been able to learn in a traditional way since the start of the pandemic. Many children have, as a result, had difficulties learning how to read, write and count, while for some it has meant no education at all. Now, however, things are changing for the better.

In March 2021, 51 countries decided to return to teaching at school. However, many children still have to learn from home. UNICEF officials have suggested that reopening schools should be a priority for governments. And when schools are finally open, students will need to be helped to return to the 'new' old reality.

1. How long has UNICEF been helping children and parents?
2. What has been one of the ways many governments have reduce the spread of the virus?
3. How many children have had to change the way they learn because of the pandemic?
4. What do UNICEF officials advise governments to do?

3 **Work in groups. Answer the questions.**

1. How has the pandemic changed the way you learn at school?
2. What do you miss most about having classes at school?
3. What three things are you going to do on your first day back at school?

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