Technical Note V2: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Responding to a Global Child Rights Crisis
Aim of this brief: To support child protection practitioners and policy makers in putting the child’s safety and well-being at the center of their COVID-19 pandemic response.
The Alliance has now produced a version 2 of the technical note on the protection of children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this brief is to support child protection practitioners to better respond to the child protection risks during a COVID-19 pandemic.

Annexes include:

- Technical Note: Child Helplines and the Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Key Messages and Considerations for Programming for Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups
- Working with Communities to Keep Children Safe
- Technical Note: COVID-19 and Child Labour
- COVID-19: Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect in the Home
- Social Service Workforce Safety and Wellness during the COVID-19 Response: Recommended Actions
- Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Children and Alternative Care
- Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty

Part 1: Child Protection in the context of the coronavirus

1.1 Responding to a dynamic crisis: Guiding principles

Stages of COVID-19
1.1 Responding to a dynamic crisis: Guiding principles cont’d

Guiding Principles:

- Prioritise the **best interests of the child** and children’s voices through all stages.
- Apply the principle of **non-discrimination and inclusion** to all stages of COVID-19.
- Build **continuity of care** and protection in all stages of the crisis.
- **Engage governments** to develop innovative **child-focused legal and policy frameworks** to protect all children.
- **Engage communities** to guide the child protection response.
- Adapt and strengthen **child protection systems** – both formal and informal.
- **Document and measure** progress to assess the success of responses to child protection issues.
- Build on **protective factors** while **addressing risk factors**.
Part 1: Child Protection in the context of the coronavirus

1.2 Socio-ecological impact of COVID-19: Protective and Risk Factors

1.3 Specific child protection risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic
Heightened stigma & discrimination against specific groups, e.g. certain genders; front line workers.

Erosion of social capital; disruption of civil society & access to basic services.

Breakdown of trust; competition over resources; limited access for community supports, health care, education, play spaces, child welfare.

Family separation; reduced access to social supports; caregiver distress; heightened risk of violence; disrupted livelihoods; poverty; fear of disease; gender inequality; mental illness; substance use.

Heightened risk of violence, neglect, exploitation & psychosocial distress; possible developmental delays; discrimination due to gender / disabilities.

Highlighting heroes such as front-line workers; valuing lives lived; intergenerational respect & care.

Essential services available through government; support from civil society organizations.

Formal support: food banks, cash transfers, virtual support, food programs, health & protection messaging. Informal support: neighborhood check-ins; community kitchens; production of PPE.

Family time & activities; increased time with parents; fathers more involved; social support through ITC; informal support systems with remote access; new rituals / routines established.

Creativity, resilience. Personal safety plans including safe adults; communication with friends and family; feeling loved and valued; knowledge of Covid-19 facts.
2.1 Toward a multi-sectoral response: Working with communities, including children and families, governments and other sectors
Part 2: Child Protection Response: during and beyond the pandemic

2.1 Child Protection-specific Programs: Actions for front-line workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example Considerations for Priority Child Protection Actions by Stage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Preparedness Actions</td>
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</table>
Are governments and communities:
• Aware of the disease, and,
• Setting up policies and systems to guide response, transition, and recovery?

Are targeted quarantine or social distancing measures in place WITHOUT wide-scale population-level measures?
Are there quarantine measures imposed on households (i.e. lockdown conditions)?
Are there restrictions to movement? Are there school closures?

Has there been a lessening of some public health measures in your location? Are schools / other services re-opening?

Does your location or community not fit any of the scenarios listed above?
→ If yes, adapt actions from any of the columns below.

If yes, go to column A.
If yes, go to column B.
If yes, go to column C.
Part 3: Annexes

- Technical Note: Child Helplines and the Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Key Messages and Considerations for Programming for Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups
- Working with Communities to Keep Children Safe
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- COVID 19: Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect in the Home
- Social Service Workforce Safety and Wellness during the COVID-19 Response: Recommended Actions
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- Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty
- Case Management
Part 4: Resources

Part 5: Feedback and Case studies

• Please send your feedback to: https://forms.gle/LiH6jR4Z33GjFkEr5

• Please send Case studies to: https://forms.gle/Bsv7gnV2F5CuzSdVA