PROTECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CONSIDERATIONS FOR REFUGEE POPULATIONS
Background

• Ebola Virus Disease – 2014-15

• **Guidance Note: Protection of Children During Infectious Disease Outbreaks**

• COVID-19

• **Technical Note: Protection of Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
Technical Note: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Overview and Plans
Where to find the technical note

https://cpie.info/COVID19Note
Status of translation

- French (Done)
- Farsi (Done)
- Italian (Done)
- Chinese (Done)
- Arabic (Done)
- Spanish (Done)
- Korean (Done)
- Portuguese (Done)
- Turkish (Done)

Translations

- Bosnian (Done)
- Nepali (Almost done)
- Hindi (Almost done)
- Swahili (Almost done)
- Thai (Almost done)
- Japanese (Almost done)
- Kurdish (Almost done)
Part 1: Child Protection Risks

Structure of the technical note
• **Neglect and maltreatment**, due to limited childcare options and the heightened risk of possibility of psychological distress or illness among caregivers

• **Increased incidence of violence**, including domestic violence, corporal punishment, sexual abuse, exploitation and child marriage, due to school closures, the loss of household income, persistent gender norms/gender inequalities and lack of access to basic services

• **Mental Health and Psychosocial distress**, due to isolation measures, illness or death in the family or other secondary risks

• **Hazardous, exploitative work** due to school closures or the loss of family support, care and household income

• **Separation from family**, due to illness or death of family members or the need for isolation

• **Stigmatization and exclusion**, including in schools that remain open, due to discrimination relating to the virus, or the disproportionate impact of secondary risks on already marginalized children and families

• **Disruption in social services**, that are crucial for survival and well-being of the most vulnerable children and families
Part 2: Child Protection Response

2.1. Working across sectors and with governments

2.2. Child Protection-specific Programs
Under Development

- Children in Alternative Care
- Protection of Social Service Workforce
- Children Deprived of their Liberties
Under Consideration

- Use of Child Helpline in COVID-19 response
- Community-level approaches
- Child Labour in the context of COVID-19
- Child abuse and maltreatment
• Disrupts the environments in which children grow and develop
• This can have negative consequences for children’s well-being, development and protection.
• Advocacy with government, collaboration with other sectors, and child protection-specific programming are key priorities during a COVID-19 response.
• In addition to mitigating risks, we must build on the strengths and positive coping mechanisms of communities, families, caregivers and children.