

COVID-19 and Child Protection Resources: data, messages and initiatives



Following is a list of resources shared by the CSOs regarding COVID-19 response. This is a living document with a [link to Dropbox Folder](#) and meant to be updated with new information.

1. Data/ Fact Sheets/ Reports
2. Knowledge and information Hubs
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Data/ Fact Sheets/ Reports

- [\(PDF\)](#) Child Helpline International Needs Assessment shows that there is an increased demand for services, while Child Helplines struggle to deploy contingency plans. (CHI)
- [Report from Europol](#) on the issue of COVID with a chapter on child sexual exploitation. (Pages 6 through 9 – Europol)
- [Latest research by the World Travel and Tourism Council](#) show that travel and tourism is one of the world's biggest job creators, with 1 out of every 11 jobs globally being connected to the industry. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, up to 75 million jobs are at immediate risk in this sector due to COVID-19 pandemic. (WTTC)
- In 2019, [tech companies reported over 45 million photos and videos of child sexual abuse](#). Hence the need for psycho-social support services was already huge before the crisis. Increased screen time of children and increased offender activity due to COVID-19 would mean even greater need for support. (NY Times)
- [COVID-19 and Children's Rights](#) (Human Rights Watch)
- [Adolescent Girls and COVID-19: Risks and Response](#) (Save the Children)

Knowledge and information Hubs/ Technical notes

- [Corona Virus is a Devastating Blow to Children in Poverty](#) (End Child Poverty)
- [Child Protection Hub for CP Professionals](#) (TDH)
- [The Alliance for Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Note](#)
- [ISPCAN's Resources Page](#)

Voices of Children and Young People

- Children's voices in times of COVID-19 (WV – [PDF](#))
- [Survey on mental health of children in the UK \(WV\)](#)
- Child Rights Connect child advisors: Responses to three questions on COVID-19 (Child Rights Connect – PDF)
- COVID-19 – Quotes from children and staff at the Children's Parliament Scotland (via Child Rights Connect – PDF)
- [Statement by Divina Maloum](#)
- [Statement from Young African Leaders](#)

Children and Young People Taking Initiative

Children raising awareness on mental health during COVID-19 crisis

- Child delegates of the 2019 Asian Children's Summit¹ created their own [Facebook page](#) and is using this platform to promote the importance of mental health during the COVID-19 crisis (Child Rights Asia)
- Children who provide [peer-to-peer counseling](#) are sharing their experience in helping other children overcome the stress brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the children whom CRC Asia worked with before wrote her experience about it. (Child Rights Asia)
- [Children from Cambodia sharing information on mental health during COVID-19 pandemic on Facebook](#) (Child Rights Asia)

Raising awareness or participating in awareness-raising efforts

- Children are using video and social media to disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention measures (Child Rights Asia):
 - Children from Pakistan: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=210269726705154>
 - Children from Taiwan: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=640877809789113>
 - Children from Cambodia:
<https://www.facebook.com/131345660299799/videos/827182804425331/>
- Children (13 years and older) in the [World Scouts Movement gathered for the virtual jamboree](#) over the weekend, 3-5 April, topics included Digital Citizenship and online safety

Providing services to other children during the COVID-19 crisis

¹ The 2019 Asian Children's Summit, held on 25-30 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, is a space for children from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia to come together to form their opinions and give recommendations on the realization of their rights. A collaboration of government and non-government regional bodies to uphold child participation to mark the 30th anniversary of the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Summit is organized by the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Thailand, South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), and Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) in collaboration with ECPAT International, International Justice Mission, Thailand Institute of Justice, VSO International, WePROTECT Global Alliance, UNICEF, and the Joining Forces, a coalition of six child-focused organizations namely ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision.

- A high school student in Shizuoka, Japan² initiated a project to provide lunch meals students in the community who would usually depend on school-provided meals. (Child Rights Asia - [Article in Japanese](#))

Children's group using the digital technology to exchange information, share updates about their advocacy work

- Children from Cambodia organized an online meeting to discuss actions they can take using online platforms. (Child Rights Asia - [information in Khmer](#))
- Children's network associated with MMI-LAC organized meetings to exchange views and identify gaps in government responses. (MMI-LAC)
- Some children in Pakistan produced videos to give advice on Covid-19 measures; a drawing competition organized by Group Development Pakistan (GDP) in collaboration with Sindh parliamentary Task Force on SDGs fostered children's expression during the Covid-19: many drawings talked about the earth pollution, Covid-19 preventive measures, the need to stay home, depicted cages with human inside and animals outside, colorful outdoors, but also lonely children. (GDP)

Children's groups conducting their own assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on their work

- Children's groups from Cambodia shared their challenges and decisions to the NGOs supporting them regarding the impact of COVID-19 on their work as child rights group. (Child Rights Asia)

Press Releases/ Statements/ Blog Posts/ Newsletters

- [The Joining Forces Alliance Open Letter](#) and [Recommendations](#)
- [Tackling the Corona Virus and Protecting Children Living in Poverty](#) (End Child Poverty)
- [In a World with COVID-19, Gender Equality Matters More Than Ever](#) (Save the Children)
- [COVID-19 Edition Newsletter](#) (Better Care Network)
- [Statement](#) (Committee on the Rights of the Child)
- [Leaders Call to Action](#) (GPEVAC)
- [Accelerate release of children from detention; Protect children from COVID-19](#)

Messaging and Advocacy Tool/ Response Plan

- World Vision COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan ([PDF](#))
- [ChildFund Australia response](#)
- [ChildFund graphic on supporting children's wellbeing](#)
- ChildFund Videos: [20 second wash](#), [Handwashing Stations](#), [Handwashing Song \(Laos\)](#), [Handwashing New Zealand](#)

News/ magazine articles from news sources

- [Lockdowns around the world bring rise in domestic violence](#) (The Guardian)

² One of the child delegates from the 2019 Asian Children's Summit

- [The Coronavirus Could Cause a Child Abuse Epidemic](#) (NY Times)
- [The Kids Aren't All Right](#) (The Atlantic)

Initiatives/ Calls for Action

- [Global Multi-Religious Faith-in-Action Covid-19 Initiative](#) (Joint Learning Initiative, Religions for Peace, UNICEF)
- [Faith in Action for Children](#) (Arigatou International)
- [Protecting a generation from COVID-19](#) (Save the Children)
- COVIDUnder19 (TDH and partners – more information to follow)
- [ChildFund Pass It Back](#): some examples include coaches in Vietnam created a fun video promoting and dancing to the Vietnamese handwashing song, increased programs in disease prevention and containment.

Webinars

- 23 April [COVID-19 Responses and Monitoring and Evaluation \(JLI\)](#)
- 15 April [Protecting vulnerable children and families \(BCN\)](#)
- 30 April [Community-Level Approaches to Child Protection - CPMS Standard 16](#)

Stories/ examples from around the world

Children and imposed curfews and movement restrictions due to COVID-19 crisis

- Adolescents violating imposed curfews or movement restrictions experience physical and humiliating punishment. They also witness abusive and degrading punishment of adult curfew violators. (CRC Asia)
 - [In the province of Laguna in the Philippines](#), a Barangay (village) Captain locked up two children in a dog cage for violating the enhanced community quarantine protocols
 - [As punishment of violating the curfew](#), a Barangay (village) Captain in the Philippines ordered members of the LGBTQ to perform a “sexy dance” and kiss in front of a 15-year old, who was also apprehended for curfew violations
 - Links to more information
 - [Child Rights Network: Put premium on protecting children’s rights & welfare during ongoing public health emergency](#)
 - [Philippine Children Face Abuse for Violating COVID-19 Curfew](#)

Increased violence against children

- In Uganda, according to information received from Dwelling Places (member of CSC), police reported that domestic violence cases (including sexual violence) have tripled. They attributed this increase to the lockdown; but for the same reason, care workers cannot respond. This could lead to increased numbers of children fleeing violence at home and ending up on the street. (CSC)
- In Pakistan, the federal Ministry of Human rights helpline has indicated that there was no increase in the reporting of complaints for violence against children since 27th February 2020

which is when the first case of Corona virus was reported in Pakistan. This may be linked to an absence of access to this form of reporting by children (especially those from vulnerable communities: internally displaced children, children from religious minorities or child refugees, child laborers, non-binary children, children in street situations and in general, children from families living below the line of poverty, children from disputed territories, such as Children in Kashmir). According to Group Development Pakistan (GDP) information collected via its Grievance and Incident Report Mechanism (GIRM) -It is not a national representative sample-, cases of violence against children have tripled since the Covid-19 unfolded. 3 cases were reported in February 2020 and 6 in March 2020. (GDP)

- In Bulgaria, in March National child helpline registered 730 more contacts compared to February 2020. (Source nova.bg on 07.04.2020)

Children in alternative care

- [In Ukraine](#), 42000 children living in institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Education, the so called “internats” (boarding schools, where children are placed on the basis of their parents’ request claiming inability to provide them with proper care and education due to parents’ poverty or other social challenges and dysfunctions faced by the parents, have been returned to these families in “one go” due to closure of these facilities for quarantine.

Children in street situations

- Children in the street situation experiencing increased violence and harassments in India, Nigeria, etc. (Consortium of Street Children – PDF)
- NGOs providing services to children in street situations have to operate differently due to the government’s response to the COVID-19 crisis. (CRC Asia)
 - Childline Thailand Foundation (CTF) operates a Hub (a place children can visit to find safety, food, referral, etc.) that aims to provide long-term solutions to improve the lives of children and help them to transition from street situations. The Hub in Bangkok is operating differently at the moment due to the orders from the national and local governments to shut down any service provider where people gather. To prevent children in street situations from being arrested and detained due to curfew violations, CTF is negotiating with the children’s families and relatives, usually based in provinces, so that the children have a temporary place to stay. However, this is only being done in cases where family assessment show that the children are not at risk of being harmed or re-traumatized. More than 10 children have been temporarily placed with relatives/extended families, with CTF social workers conducting follow up. Also, children are given the option to stay at government shelters but these are often rejected by the children.
- Children in the streets need support and young people who used to be in street situations are at risk of contracting the virus.
 - In Nepal, children in street situations need food, hygiene kits, and other relief during the country-wide lockdown. Young people, who used to be in street situations and are now living together in groups of 18 to 20 people, are at higher risk of contracting the virus

due to the difficulty of implementing physical distancing given their living situation ([Link for more information](#))

Sexual abuse of children

- Child helplines continue to receive reports of sexual abuse of children.
 - Childline Thailand Foundation (CTF) also operates a helpline. CTF still receives reports that child sex offenders are still active despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Sexual abuse of children in street situations is another area of concern. For example, according to a CSC partner in Mwanza, Tanzania, two children (9 years old and 15 years old boys) have reported sexual abuse, after which one of them was refused acceptance in a foster care type placement for fear that the child might have contracted COVID-19. Partners across Tanzania have also recorded an increase in police round-ups, but there is no data yet on the exact number of children arrested.

Children whose parents are migrant workers

- Asia is a region with a lot of migrant parents. Due to travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 crisis, children left behind by migrant parents are worrying about their parent's difficulty to return to their home country.
 - "[My parents went to work abroad but couldn't return](#) to Thailand because of COVID." ()

Mental health of parents

- The COVID-19 creates stress to parents and adults providing support to the children.
 - In an online survey conducted by Child Welfare League Foundation in Taiwan, parents rated their level of anxiety at 7 (high) based on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest
(Resources in Mandarin: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=686286225245508>, https://www.children.org.tw/news/advocacy_detail/2343)

Access to Education

In Pakistan currently a total of 22.5 million children out of school³, the Covid-19 is likely to worsen this situation and generate a reverse trend that may jeopardize all recent efforts to foster enrollment of children in schools especially among girls. More than 700 children with whom GDP has been interacting have lost access to education due to Covid-19 and the subsequent closing of their NFE schools/madrassahs with no alternative e-learning. The number of families from those communities reaching out to GDP for food support has also multiplied by 5. (GDP)

³ Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)