COVID-19 Future Trends

IMPACTS ON CHILDREN AND THE SEARCH FOR OPPORTUNITIES

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OCTOBER 2020
THERE IS A GENUINE PROSPECT THAT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS WILL PERMANENTLY ALTER THE LIVES OF TODAY’S CHILDREN.

How do we strategically allocate our limited resources to this end when the only constant is uncertainty?
There is a genuine prospect that the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis will permanently alter the lives of today’s children. Available data and projections present a grim picture with rising household unemployment and poverty negatively impacting children’s wellbeing. Against this backdrop, the protection of children and their families and/or caregivers is vital. But how do we determine how to strategically allocate our limited resources to this end when the only constant is uncertainty?

Scenario planning is an approach to thinking about the future by focusing on external driving forces on which we have little or no control. In building scenarios of what the future might look like, we begin with existing data, evidence, and projections to establish prudent assumptions about our current situation:

1. The severity of the crisis that is, “the level of harm and dislocation experienced by the population as a result of the depth and duration of the health, economic impacts of the pandemic.”

2. The level of social intervention, defined as intentionally implemented change strategies to introduce betterment, including alleviating the impact of social and economic stressors.

These prudent assumptions are accompanied by a number of unknowns that are impact- ing our work: the length and severity of the pandemic and of the economic crisis, as well as government capacity to respond and civil society capacity to influence such a response. It is also uncertain what will happen to international cooperation in this context. Most importantly, there are too many unknowns on the long-term impact on children’s lives and on the invisible crises they might be facing.

The scenarios in this analysis are structured along two axes ranking from high to low:

- **HIGH IMPACT OF CRISIS**
  - With the virus under control, and with long-term economic stimulus packages, there is limited appetite for structural and equitable changes.
  - The recovery highlights existing inequalities, poor countries and populations having less access to vaccines and recovery support. Inequalities discourage cooperation.

- **LOW IMPACT OF CRISIS**
  - Regardless of the intensity of social intervention, the persistence of the virus and the associated containment measures dwarf all efforts.
  - The persistence of the virus and the economic crisis coupled with ineffective, short term, and fragmented social interventions lead to division and social unrest.

While there is no “happy scenario”, all of them can be reshaped to create opportunities and interventions that will have a positive impact on children. Will emerging social movements demanding structural changes and international cooperation build momentum or will they take root in the relief of returning to “normal”? How do we ensure government actors prioritize the most vulnerable children in recovery agendas? How might Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) implement interventions to mitigate this crisis and the upcoming recession and austerity? Can a succession of crises lead to positive change? What is the role of funders in these scenarios, and where and how can a partnership of funders have the biggest impact?

With the support of this paper amongst others, funders will have to build their own answers to these questions and plan accordingly. They will have to consider the whole socioecological system of the child and exercise flexibility in working towards the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the context of a recession. It seems plausible that efforts will need to respond both to the immediate needs and to the structural setting, with the delivery of services, the generation of knowledge, and the engagement in advocacy efforts being key in ensuring the prioritization of children’s wellbeing and rights today and in the coming years.
Covid-19 Future Trends
Impacts on children and the search for opportunities

The COVID-19 global public health emergency has both immediate and long-term economic and social impacts. While children are largely spared the health impacts, available projections present a grim picture with rising household unemployment and poverty leading to children’s school drop-out, malnutrition, higher risk of child marriage, early pregnancy, child labour, violence, skills gaps, and diminished lifetime earnings potential among the known impacts. With government budgets under pressure and a blooming recession, further cuts in services are highly likely.

To help navigate the uncertainty we are facing, this desk review will provide potential future scenarios to spark ideas, discussions, and planning. First, we will look at the impacts from previous crises and the available data to build prudent assumptions about the present situation. We will also look at the most pressing unknowns. Finally, the paper outlines four scenarios which provide opportunities to identify potential levers for positive change.

In attempts to delineate the future impacts on today’s children, the paper will analyse the crisis as a dynamic phenomenon that shapes children’s lives well into adulthood, with age and gender considered key influencing factors.

Finally, the structure and approach to scenarios in this paper builds on the report “COVID-19 Scenario Planning For Nonprofit And Philanthropic Organizations: Practical Tool To Reflect On Potential Scenarios” completed by Deloitte.

OF THE IMPACTS OF PREVIOUS PANDEMICS AND ECONOMIC CRISIS ON CHILDREN

Past pandemics have negatively impacted children in a range of ways. There are limited reviews on the issue and they focus mainly on the impacts of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea from 2013 to 2016). Yet, the impacts highlighted can help us see the patterns that emerge during and after a crisis:

- **Reductions in household income, food shortages, and price increases**, with children increasingly engaged in wage labour and younger children and girls in work within the home.
- **Early pregnancy**, associated with economic insecurity and transactional sex. Evidence suggests increases in child marriage but decreases in Female Genital Mutilation (at least temporarily). Ebola-related disruption in health services led to a 75% regional increase in maternal mortality and a 47% increase in early pregnancy in Sierra Leone.
- **School closures and re-entry barriers**: after nine months of school closures in Sierra Leone, the government banned the 18,000 estimated pregnant girls from re-entering, though a UNFPA assessment cited money as the main barrier.
- **Child abuse and maltreatment, and sexual violence and abuse**, particularly of women and girls increased, yet data on its magnitude and impacts are limited.
- **Negative impact on mental health**, impacts on children, which have been little studied. One study on psychosocial responses of families to pandemics found that criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder were met in 30% of children and 25% of parents experiencing quarantines and isolation.
- **Children orphaned** during outbreaks, who lived with extended families, or were in foster or institutional care, were more prone to discrimination and stigmatization and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Stigmatization and discrimination** was prevalent among children.

Similarly, reports on the impact of past economic crises on children highlight increases in child mortality and morbidity, child labour, child exploitation, violence against children and women, and other forms of abuse, alongside declines in school attendance and the quality of education, nurture, care, and emotional wellbeing.
In order to generate scenarios of what might potentially happen and what the impacts would be, we should look at a few prudent assumptions we can make about the current impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

The ones proposed here are based on the impacts from previous crises and the limited data, evidence, and projections available. As explained in the methodological approach of this paper, we can use the information available to look for potential patterns, but we need to be conscious that crises are context specific, that data collection in times of lockdowns is complex, and that projection models might turn out not to be accurate – partially because they prompt policy changes that changes the trajectory of the projection. To strengthen our scenarios, we will also look at factors that are still unknown but could have strong impacts.

The crisis is affecting the whole socio-ecological system of the child and is exacerbated by poverty, inequality, and existing vulnerabilities.

Children’s wellbeing is in large part dependent on families’ socioeconomic stability, which relies on economies generating employment for their parents and caregivers. Current predictions project the loss of between 158 million and 242 million jobs worldwide, with women affected the most by job destruction.

Unemployment increases the risks of families and children falling into poverty. Save the Children and UNICEF estimate that the number of children living in poverty could soar by up to 117 million by the end of 2020. With poverty also come risky coping mechanisms, and ILO and UNICEF estimate millions of children are at risk child labour, potentially rising for the first time in 20 years.

Virtual education has highlighted the digital divide, and the risks children face, including cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, access to harmful content risk-taking behaviour, and behavioural changes like less sleep, reading, and socialising.

The risk of violence is not exclusive to online activity. In May 2020 World Vision estimated that violence against children could increase by between 20% and 32% over the coming three months. This could mean up to 85 million more girls and boys worldwide may be exposed to physical, sexual, and/or emotional violence.

Looking at the bigger picture of children’s socio-ecological system is a first step to think about the factors that are and will continue to affect them both directly and indirectly:

- Blooming recession
- Restrictions to movement of people and goods (including refugees)
- Potential cuts to overseas development assistance budgets

- Social protection spending capacity increased in the short term
- National debt / stimulus packages increased in the short term
- Potential budget cuts in the long term
- Potential for political and social unrest

- Disruption/reduction in services (education, health, justice, child protection, etc.)
- Lack of child sensitive/child inclusive system responses
- Entrenched gender inequality

- Disruption/reduction of access to support networks
- Disruption/reduction of NGOs programmes
- Reduction in community practices (harmful or helpful) interactions

- Unemployment, poverty, risky coping mechanisms, housing safety, violence, digital divide, lack of childcare and schooling, mental health deterioration, family breakup, stigma, etc.

- Reduced immunization and malnutrition, lack of access to contraception, early pregnancy/ marriages, increased child mortality and morbidity, isolation, child labour, mental health deterioration, family breakup, stigma, orphanhood, etc.
The most vulnerable children are affected the most, with a gender divide making girls face unique risks.

Almost all documents consulted for this paper highlight how the most vulnerable children are at greater risk, but there are very little projections or evidence of long-term impacts. There is anecdotal evidence on how the crisis affects them, for instance children with disabilities are not always included in strategies of distance learning, and studies from previous economic crisis in Europe point to cuts to services and more difficult access to therapists, education, social care, and welfare support and benefits. There is very little mention of LGBT+ youth, but what there is centres on unemployment, homelessness, and suicide risks.

Refugee children cannot easily transition from the classroom to online learning, with the potential of half of refugee girls not returning to school and gaps in learning outcomes set to widen. It is now more difficult for refugees to access the labour market, social safety nets, and aid support. Going forward, as refugee-hosting countries face a recession, increasing unemployment, and rising xenophobia, there will be increased scepticism of refugees’ economic inclusion. Remittances are critical for children staying behind when one or both parents have migrated, and the World Bank projects a decline by 20% in 2020.

For children in the alternative care system, the risk of abandonment, neglect, and diminishing social workers’ support has increased. Additionally, care facilities are closing in an unplanned way, putting children in danger. A study on rapid returns of children to families highlights risks related to unresolved antecedents to separation, lack of economic capacity, limited monitoring, and lack of access to education. Young people aging out of care and transitioning into independent living are facing unemployment, lack of protection, and interruption of education, among others. With socio-economic conditions in the family being a main reason behind institutional care, the upcoming recession could easily result in further institutionalisation. At the same time, the pandemic could be an opportunity to accelerate on-going reforms to close institutions properly and support the transition to family-based and community-based programmes.

Better documented is the impact the crisis will have on girls and women. UNFPA estimates a rise in different forms of gender-based violence:

- If the lockdown continues for six months, 31 million additional gender-based violence cases can be expected.
- Two million FGM cases and 13 million child marriages could occur over the next decade that would otherwise have been averted.

Social protection measures are offering immediate relief but might not be sustainable in the long run.

Strengthening social protection responses is essential to mitigate the immediate and long-term economic impacts of the crisis on the most vulnerable. As of June 2020, 195 countries had planned or introduced social protection measures with about 30% being various forms of cash-based transfers. Yet, 4 billion people have no access to any social protection, including 2 out of every 3 children.

During previous crises many governments adopted economic stimulus packages in the initial phase of a recession, pushing up public spending. The persistence of the recession led to a decrease in national revenues and an increase in deficits. Pressure from financial markets forced governments to cut budgets, with an abrupt fall in social spending and their ability to focus on immediate need or more systemic causes. Funding shortages are taking different forms, from pre-existing declines in funding for INGOs, to government funding being channelled through UN Agencies and only slowly reaching front-line organisations, to NGOs working on very different sectors launching COVID-19 appeals, both nationally and globally. An increase in demand will also put pressure on donors, and test an already imbalanced power dynamic with grantees.
While there is promising news in terms of global collaboration to find a vaccine, it is uncertain when it will be available, how, to whom, and at what cost. This uncertainty will drive other aspects of the crisis, as second waves could halt any progress made and even create new risks. The length of the pandemic will test the willingness of society to cooperate across social, cultural, age, and race boundaries, and will increase the potential for social unrest or division.

The length and severity of the economic crisis.

A significant slow-down or a recession of the global economy is foreseen. Projections warn that global poverty could increase by as much as half a billion people, or 8% of the total human population, and its location is likely to shift towards middle-income countries and South Asia and East Asia. The World Food Programme estimates that the number of hungry could increase by 82% in countries where it operates.

Government revenues will be affected, and so the resources available to provide social services – which are currently underfunded. We can expect an uneven scale, duration, and distribution of job losses, a disproportionate distribution of economic impacts among the most vulnerable populations – including youth – and an increased demand for services from governments and NGOs.

Long term impact on children’s lives and emerging invisible crises.

Research on the long-term impacts of crises on children is mostly oriented towards policy and tends to homogenise children. There is also little research on the long-term socio-psychological impacts of crises, on mental health effects of social distancing and economic pressure, on risk and resilience factors, or on the impact on nurture, care, and emotional wellbeing. There are few studies on the process and impact of rapidly returning children to their biological families and on what types of supports lead to better outcomes – particularly at the scale it is happening now.

Lack of data, evidence, and research can create invisible crises. For example, during the Ebola crisis an estimated 70,000 births went unregistered, making mothers and their newborns invisible. Support to research and data production will be key to address the unseen consequences of the crisis.

International cooperation will be key to stop the spread of the virus and to implement socioeconomic policies that support the most vulnerable countries. Low-income countries will be doubly impacted if there is a reduction of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from high-income countries. Development Initiatives (DI) projects that global ODA levels could drop by $25 billion by 2021 as a result of the recession. This could hit issues that are already underfunded, such as ending violence against children, which accounts for just 0.6% of total ODA and 0.5% of global humanitarian funding.

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Level of international cooperation.

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Scenario planning is an approach to thinking about the future. Rather than focusing on definitive predications, it is useful for identifying a set of possible future states. They focus is on external driving forces on which we have little or no control. Organisations can benefit from scenario planning by imagining what different futures would mean for their work and anticipating key aspects such as: what would their strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities be in each of them? What, when and for how long should be prioritised? Who should they partner with? What level of influence could they exercise in their field? etc. Scenarios are pictures of what could happen, a tool for prompting thinking and discussion, to exercise flexibility, and to support strategizing and planning in uncertain times.

The below scenarios explore two factors, conceptualized on two axes, that could significantly affect the socioecological environment of children over the next 3-24 months: the severity of the crisis and the level of social intervention. The time frame for the scenarios has been kept short, with the logic that decisions, actions and changes could be set in motion in the coming two years as governments and other actors take steps to respond to the crisis.

The first axis looks at the severity of the crisis, that is, “the level of harm and dislocation experienced by the population as a result of the depth and duration of the health, economic impacts of the pandemic.” We will also look at school closures, as they are a big source of disruption for children.

- The virus is brought under control and lockdown and containment measures are relaxed.
- The economy steadily recovers, though unevenly. The poorest countries and families are hit the hardest.
- Schools reopen, and efforts are made to facilitate the return of all children.

- The virus is not under control and lockdown and containment measures go on and off.
- The economic crisis worsens, national debts, unemployment and poverty increases.
- Schools intermittently open and close, and large numbers of children drop-out. Efforts to improve access to distance learning continue.

The second axis focuses on the level of social intervention, defined as intentionally implemented change strategies – mainly by the State and other actors - which aim to eradicate risk factors, activate protective factors, reduce harm, or introduce betterment, including to alleviate social and economic problems. They can happen at the national or global level, or both.

- Social interventions are exclusively focused on short-term mitigation and recovery.
- Interventions are fragmented, focused on siloed issues, particularly linked to the economic recovery, and with limited space for children's issues.
- There is little interest in cooperation, both at national and international levels.

- Social interventions are focused on the long-term mitigation and recovery with an eye towards systemic changes.
- Interventions are built around multisectoral consensus, with the potential to affect many aspects of children's wellbeing.
- There is appetite for collaboration both at national and international levels.
ACCORDING TO SEVERITY OF THE CRISIS AND LEVEL OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario 1: Return to “normal”</th>
<th>Scenario 4: Protracted crisis</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL OF INTERVENTION</strong></td>
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<td>LOW IMPACT OF CRISIS</td>
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<td>• With the virus under control, and with long term economic stimulus packages targeting all parts of society and mitigating the worst of the global economic crisis, there is a sense of complacency that contributes to limited social and political will to implement more structural and equitable changes.</td>
<td>• Regardless of the intensity of social intervention, stimulus packages and social protection programmes cannot reach the scale needed, governments risk running out of funds, and the persistence of the virus and the associated containment measures dwarf all efforts.</td>
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<td>• Schools reopen, and there are some efforts to ameliorate effects of crises on children. However, millions risk being left behind due to a lack of prioritization of children in recovery efforts.</td>
<td>• Child protection efforts are adapted to reach more children and families in lockdown, but many are missed. Coupled with intermittent school closures, a generation is at risk.</td>
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ACCORDING TO SEVERITY OF THE CRISIS AND LEVEL OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION

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<th>Scenario 2: Unequal recovery</th>
<th>Scenario 3: We are not in this together</th>
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<td><strong>LEVEL OF INTERVENTION</strong></td>
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<td>LOW IMPACT OF CRISIS</td>
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<td>• The recovery highlights existing inequalities, with the poorer countries having less access to vaccines and seeing repeated outbreaks. The economy steadily recovers for the rich, but ineffective, short-term and fragmented social interventions leave societies emotionally and financially drained.</td>
<td>• The persistence of the virus and the economic crisis coupled with ineffective, short term, and fragmented social interventions leave societies emotionally and financially drained.</td>
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<td>• Schools reopen, but many children have already dropped out and will not return. Many more will drop out due to economic pressures, undermining their future opportunities.</td>
<td>• Globally and nationally there is neither consensus nor capacity to cooperate. Moreover, division and social unrest become commonplace, some countries experience moves towards authoritarianism and social movements and spaces are restrained.</td>
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A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SCENARIOS AND KEY QUESTIONS THAT COULD DETERMINE LONG-TERM OUTCOMES:

### A RETURN TO “NORMAL”

- Governments focus on economic recovery against a backdrop of high levels of global cooperation on debt relief and international loans but fail to prioritize children in the international recovery agenda.
- Opportunities to make lasting change focus on issues affecting the majority of children directly, such as education, while neglecting those issues that prevent the most marginalized from thriving.
- In some countries there is a window of opportunity for relative change, particularly around maintaining or adapting initiatives implemented as emergency measures.

**Key questions that could determine long-term outcomes:**

- Will emerging social movements demanding structural changes and international cooperation to build more equitable, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies, particularly for children, take root in the relief of returning to “normal”?
- Will complacency built on debt without systemic changes lead to on-going and protracted economic and social crises, and with that to a generation of children losing their chance to break the poverty cycle?

### UNEQUAL RECOVERY

- The inequalities exacerbated by the crisis persist during the recovery, both between and within countries. There is little cooperation in the global distribution of vaccines and of international finance for stimulus packages. Every country rush to get their own deal, with poor countries being hit with the hardest conditions.
- Nationally, emergency measures put in place to support the most vulnerable families are no longer considered necessary, leaving many worse off.
- Schools are opened, but the return also shows inequalities. Many of the most vulnerable children have already dropped off, and without targeted support many more will remain behind.

**Key questions that could determine long-term outcomes:**

- Will the unequal recovery lend momentum for social movements to mobilise, or will they be focused on the immediate needs of those left behind?
- Will debt and accompanying austerity lead to on-going economic crises?
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Key questions that could determine long-term outcomes:

- Will social movements be able to work on common goals in a context of social unrest and shrinking civic spaces? Or will they not be in it together?
- Will we have a generation of children and youth growing in financial debt and social division? Will they grow disenchanted, feel robbed by previous generations, and have little confidence in institutions?

03 WE ARE NOT IN THIS TOGETHER

- Globally and nationally, inequalities along social, political and economic lines are too evident, societies are emotionally and financially drained, limiting the interest and capacity of groups to work together towards common goals.
- Each country deals with the crisis according to their capacities, and the North/South divide becomes more evident.
- Nationally, there is more potential for social unrest than for collective action. The focus of social interventions is on mitigating the impacts of the crisis. Mistrust in institutions over the handling of the crisis grows, and some governments restrict civic spaces.

04 PROTRACTED CRISIS

- Globally and nationally all efforts are on simply mitigating the effects of the on-going crises, with more social interventions - including in child protection- and stimulus packages that are still not enough to catch up with the growth in unemployment and poverty.
- Debt continuous to grow, but social intervention keeps the fabric of society together. Austerity momentum, or will the immediate crisis continue to dominate?
- With schools intermittently opened and closed, children are at risk of not having the necessary skills and educational opportunities. They would have suffered from school closures, isolation, increased work at home, and increased violence, among others. Now they are 13-19 y/o and facing the transition from primary to secondary school. With poverty levels rising, their education is at risk.

Using these scenarios, we could start thinking what the impacts on children could be in the next three to seven years. The economic crisis seems to be the main certainty on which to base this exercise. While we cannot look at the diversity of children, we can think about childhood development in a dynamic way, recognising age and gender as key factors, and use them to imagine today children’s future, and the interventions that will be needed to support them.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TODAY</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2027</th>
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<tr>
<td>0-5 years old</td>
<td>They would now be 3-8 y/o and could potentially suffer from preventable diseases, stunting, and be behind in early development. Some of these children will be born to adolescent mothers who got pregnant during the pandemic. Now they are 7-12 y/o and they might not have all the skills required for schooling. Their parents were probably young adults at the start of the pandemic, and probably hit harder by the recession/recovery.</td>
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<td>6-12 years old</td>
<td>This group would have suffered from school closures, isolation, increased work at home, and increased violence, among others. Now they are 9-15 y/o and facing the transition from primary to secondary school. With poverty levels rising, their education is at risk. Now they are 13-19 y/o. They remember the pandemic and how it changed their lives, with the possibility of suffering mental health issues. They are in high school and the recession/recovery keeps school drop out, early pregnancy, child marriage, and child labour as main risks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-17 years old</td>
<td>They would have suffered from school closures, decreased agency, isolation, and increased violence, among others. Many would have dropped out of school and had an early pregnancy/marriage, be working, or engaged in risky coping mechanisms. They are 16-20 y/o and those who stayed in school are facing the prospects of skills gaps, fewer jobs, and financial needs coming before education. Those who left school will probably not return and have fewer short or long term opportunities. Now they are 20-24 y/o starting their young adults life facing a recession/recovery that limits their opportunities. Skill gaps, fewer jobs, one or multiple pregnancies, early marriages among others, would have increased their chances of staying in the poverty cycle. They might suffer mental health issues associated with the pandemic or with unemployment. They are disenfranchised, feel robbed by previous generations, and have little confidence in institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21 years old</td>
<td>They would have suffered from higher education closures, unemployment, violence, risky coping mechanisms, early marriages and pregnancies (even second or third), etc. They are 21/24 y/o, starting their young adults lives in a recession. They are 25-28 y/o and all they have experienced is recession/recovery, unemployment or low paid jobs, poverty, and related mental health issues. They feel disenfranchised, robbed by previous generations, and have little faith in institutions.</td>
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According to the UNICEF’s Office for Research – Innocenti, there is currently a growing literature on how to address the crisis but very little on long-term consequences or on interventions. Support and partnering for research and data production will be key to address the unseen consequences of the crisis, both in direct programming and advocacy efforts.

As mentioned before, there are knowledge and data gaps, including on the rapid return of children and best mechanisms to support them, on children with disabilities, on LGBTQ+ children, on group treatment of PTSD in children, on the long-term socio-psychological impacts of crises, on mental health effects of social distancing and economic pressure, on risk and resilience factors, and on the impact on nurture, care, and emotional wellbeing.

UNICEF’s Office for Research – Innocenti has a research agenda on children, with upcoming projects on estimating the impact of COVID-19 on violence prevalence, the impact of school closures, reviews on mental health consequences, and on social impacts among others. Keeping up to date with various organisations research will be key to update the assumptions, unknowns and scenarios.
CONCLUSIONS

Data, evidence and projections predict a dire future for families and children.

Now is the time to plan for alternative potential futures, recognising the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that each one provides. These futures still hold the potential to be – if not fully reshaped, at least impacted in positive ways along an interrelated socioecological system.

Funders have a pivotal role in providing support to interventions, research and advocacy efforts that can today start building a more prosperous future for children. They also have the on-going commitment to the children that are now part of the programmes of their grantees, and that as we have seen, will most likely grow in the context of not just a pandemic, but on a lasting economic crisis.

It is worth noting that while the crisis will affect vulnerable children the most, it is not possible to address each type of vulnerability in this paper. With the exception of age and gender, children in this paper are considered those living in the Global South, even if their contexts vary widely.

This paper makes reference to past crises, which were shaped by a particular conjunction of factors. Reports and analysis of these past crises are limited, as they look at a set of data to reply to specific research questions. They have been used to provide patterns on the development of a crisis, but it would be incorrect to automatically assume that because it happened before it will happen now. COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis in terms of its scale, and the complexities of the juxtaposition of health, economic and social factors.

Likewise, the data, evidence and projections available on COVID-19 respond to the specific research undertaken by different organisations and institutions. Many of them rely on their own definitions of key terms, on particular statistical data sources, and on specific predictive models, which further analysis might prove not comparable. Even if projections are accurate and indicate existing trends, new interventions can then be introduced that may result in the original projections not being realised.

There are few rapid assessments on COVID-19 that include the voices of families and children, but then again this information might not be representative of a whole country or region, nor comparable to other sources.

All the resources consulted for this paper are publicly available for consultation.

IMPACT OF PAST PANDEMICS/CRISES

Review of impacts on children, with info on impact of the control measurements, moderating and risks factors and long term impact. Highly recommended.


A rapid review of economic policy and social protection responses to health and economic crises and their effects on children.


Assessment of pregnant adolescent girls with data on their marital status, access to SRHS, schooling, etc. to inform programming.


Evaluating the impact of the control measurements, moderating and risks factors and long term impact.


Three researches on the impact of economic crises on children. While a big part of the information comes from the Global North, they are worth reading.


USEFUL LITERATURE BY TOPIC

Some of the most important resources used for this paper have been categorised by topics in this annex for easy reference.

ANNEX

METHODOLOGY

This desk review was undertaken with a focus of the mid-term (three to seven year) impact of COVID-19 and its associated crises on the Global South. At this stage there are limited data and projections on the long term impact of the pandemic, and much of the information available relates to the Global North. I have drawn from the available information, fully recognising the impacts will play differently in different contexts and amongst the most vulnerable children.

It is worth noting that while the crisis will affect vulnerable children the most, it is not possible to address each type of vulnerability in this paper. With the exception of age and gender, children in this paper are considered those living in the Global South, even if their contexts vary widely.

This paper makes reference to past crises, which were shaped by a particular conjunction of factors. Reports and analysis of these past crises are limited, as they look at a set of data to reply to specific research questions. They have been used to provide patterns on the development of a crisis, but it would be incorrect to automatically assume that because it happened before it will happen now. COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis in terms of its scale, and the complexities of the juxtaposition of health, economic and social factors.

Likewise, the data, evidence and projections available on COVID-19 respond to the specific research undertaken by different organisations and institutions. Many of them rely on their own definitions of key terms, on particular statistical data sources, and on specific predictive models, which further analysis might prove not comparable. Even if projections are accurate and indicate existing trends, new interventions can then be introduced that may result in the original projections not being realised.

There are few rapid assessments on COVID-19 that include the voices of families and children, but then again this information might not be representative of a whole country or region, nor comparable to other sources.

All the resources consulted for this paper are publicly available for consultation.

USEFUL LITERATURE BY TOPIC

Impacts on Children and the Search for Opportunities

Description Publisher and link

_**IMPACT OF PAST PANDEMICS/CRISES**_

- Review of impacts on children, with info on impact of the control measurements, moderating and risks factors and long term impact. Highly recommended.

- A rapid review of economic policy and social protection responses to health and economic crises and their effects on children.

- Assessment of pregnant adolescent girls with data on their marital status, access to SRHS, schooling, etc. to inform programming.

- Evaluating the impact of the control measurements, moderating and risks factors and long term impact.

- Three researches on the impact of economic crises on children. While a big part of the information comes from the Global North, they are worth reading.

**METHODOLOGY**

- This desk review was undertaken with a focus of the mid-term (three to seven year) impact of COVID-19 and its associated crises on the Global South. At this stage there are limited data and projections on the long term impact of the pandemic, and much of the information available relates to the Global North. I have drawn from the available information, fully recognising the impacts will play differently in different contexts and amongst the most vulnerable children.

- It is worth noting that while the crisis will affect vulnerable children the most, it is not possible to address each type of vulnerability in this paper. With the exception of age and gender, children in this paper are considered those living in the Global South, even if their contexts vary widely.

- This paper makes reference to past crises, which were shaped by a particular conjunction of factors. Reports and analysis of these past crises are limited, as they look at a set of data to reply to specific research questions. They have been used to provide patterns on the development of a crisis, but it would be incorrect to automatically assume that because it happened before it will happen now. COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis in terms of its scale, and the complexities of the juxtaposition of health, economic and social factors.

- Likewise, the data, evidence and projections available on COVID-19 respond to the specific research undertaken by different organisations and institutions. Many of them rely on their own definitions of key terms, on particular statistical data sources, and on specific predictive models, which further analysis might prove not comparable. Even if projections are accurate and indicate existing trends, new interventions can then be introduced that may result in the original projections not being realised.

- There are few rapid assessments on COVID-19 that include the voices of families and children, but then again this information might not be representative of a whole country or region, nor comparable to other sources.

- All the resources consulted for this paper are publicly available for consultation.

**USEFUL LITERATURE BY TOPIC**

Some of the most important resources used for this paper have been categorised by topics in this annex for easy reference.

**ANNEX**

All the resources consulted for this paper are publicly available for consultation.
COVID-19 Future Trends
Impacts on Children and the Search for Opportunities

Impact of COVID-19


COVID-19 PROJECTIONS


ONLINE DANGERS


MENTAL HEALTH


Rapid recovery assessment in 335 communities in 9 Asian countries on COVID impact, coping mechanisms, and recovery capacity.

Another resource on the situation in Asia Pacific.

Impact on girls, with voices from the ground and a call to action.

Impacts on children without or at risk to losing parental care. Based on data and accounts provided by SOS Children Villages offices.


Resource predicting a major spike in the cases of children experiencing physical, emotional and sexual violence, both now and in the months and years to come.
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN CRISIS

Resource on violence against girls in Asia Pacific, primarily intended for regional policy-makers and duty-bearers responsible for regulating, planning and resourcing protection of all children.

Interesting read that documents nine (direct and indirect) pathways linking pandemics and VAW/C.

Reader digest on SGBV and COVID-19.

COVID RESEARCH AGENDA

UNICEF – INOCCENTI research agenda on COVID and Children. Highly recommended to check their website for updates.

REFERENCES

2 Ibid Deloitte (2020).
25 Catherine Haack and Pierre Lefebvre, Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), “Pandemic school...