

## **Advocating for Program Continuity - Case Studies**

### **CAAFAG Program Continuity during Covid-19 Learning Module.**

#### **Case study 1: Prevention**

Your prevention programming has been running in this region of the country for several years and includes activities at all levels of the socio-ecological model. The arrival of COVID-19 in the country has led to the abrupt closure of schools and markets with no date currently set for them to re-open. Gathering inside and outside the home has also been greatly restricted in order to control the spread of the virus. Gathering for social and recreational activities is prohibited, and only faith groups are allowed to continue to meet in person.

These changes mean that many children have lost their daily routine and that families have lost their income. While some children are carrying out more household chores, others are outside the home seeking paid work to support their families or hanging around the local area. Protective measures are reduced, and vulnerability to the risks of recruitment are increased.

#### **Case study 2: Release**

You have been working on release in a key district for the last 12 months, and have good dialogue with armed actors and good access to affected communities. Release has been taking place through formal mechanisms involving lists of former combatants and children in supporting roles, provided by the local commander. Communication and trust are key to these relationships, and have relied on you meeting regularly with senior personnel in the armed group, and with members of the local communities.

To control the spread of COVID-19 in the country, the national government has enforced movement restrictions, banning all travel between districts. As your organization's premises is in the regional capital, you are now not able to travel to the affected district to meet with key stakeholders in your CAAFAG program.

#### **Case study 3: Reintegration**

Your reunification and reintegration activities have been working well, and you have a well-established relationship with transit and interim care facilities. Many of the children you are working with need to travel across regions within the country to be reunited with their families. Due to COVID-19, non-essential travel is not permitted by some regional authorities. In addition, some parents and communities are concerned about the risk of returning children bringing the virus with them and spreading this in the local community. Reunification is currently on hold while you work through these issues, which is resulting in children spending prolonged periods in transit and interim care centers with reduced contact with their families, or with the local community around the center.