

WEBINAR: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



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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](#)

Going Forward

Key Technical Areas (in need of further guidance and support)

- Alternative Care
- Children living outside of family care (including children in institutions)
- Children in conflict with the law (including those in detention)
- Protection of the Workforce
- Capacity building and re-training of the Workforce (e.g. remote ways of working)
- Role of child helplines in the response
- Protection of children in armed conflict
- Protection of children in camps and informal settlements

Summary of Child Protection Risks

- **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

Examples of what can be done?

- **Train health, education and social service workforce** on identifying and addressing protection risks COVID-19 and its response measures pose to children;
- **Map and disseminate information about available services and how to access them** for children and their families
- **Establish procedures to reduce the risk of separation** and facilitate the reunification of families
- **Facilitate access to available protection and other care services** for vulnerable children and adults who will report incidents for abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes addressing financial barriers to access.
- **Support families** to be ready for school closures re-openings, while also being equipped to home-school children
- **Advocate for flexible work arrangements** for parents and caregivers who may have lost access to childcare
- **Provide financial and material assistance** to families suffering from a loss of income
- **Ensure continuity in provision of social services** to the most vulnerable segments of the population