

CHILD PROTECTION & COVID-19 OVERVIEW



The risks to children as part of COVID-19



Physical, sexual and psychological violence and neglect especially in homes



Losing access to school



Economic risk as families lose jobs and wages



Child marriage, child labour, trafficking, and exploitation as economic strains grow on families



Mental health and psychosocial issues related to feeling isolated, anxious, and worried



Limited access to birth registration



Disruptions to health services for children that are sick, injured or need assistance



Separation from families such as during quarantines

See the [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) for more details.

REMEMBER: the risk for children of different ages, genders and disabilities can be different. For example, power inequalities disproportionately impact girls.

Settings with high child protection risks during COVID-19

Children living in:

- disasters and at high risk of climate change
- conflicts
- informal settlements
- streets
- institutions



Action that can be taken by the IFRC and National Societies

- 1 Prioritize and include child protection in COVID-19 appeals, planning and operations. Actions should be consistent with **IFRC Key Messages on Protection, Gender and Inclusion** and the interagency **Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**.
- 2 Ensure contingency plans for disaster responses, such as for fires, floods and earthquakes, that occur during COVID-19 include human, financial and material resources for child protection.
- 3 As auxiliaries to government, advocate to and support governments to include child protection in their COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery. See **IFRC and Area of Responsibility on Child Protection Key Messages for Governments**.
- 4 Implement **Community Engagement and Accountability** tools that are child-friendly and that provide children meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions that affect them.
- 5 Prioritize children in high-risk settings.
- 6 Ensure an inclusive approach in all operations and advocacy that reflects children's different ages, genders and disability status.
- 7 Implement your Child Safeguarding / Protection Policy, it should be applied throughout all COVID-19 operations. If your National Society does not have a child safeguarding / protection policy, you can work from the **IFRC policy** and see the IFRC Overview on COVID-19 and Child Safeguarding Policies.