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# COVID-19 and its impact on young people inequalities

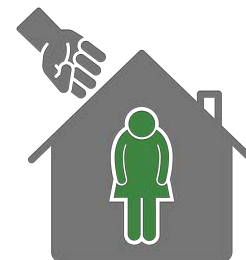
The measures adopted to contain the pandemic have had a powerful impact on the youth of the region and the world

According to the Director-General of WHO, many young people feel **concerned, frustrated, isolated, anxious and depressed** due to social distancing measures, feelings that can lead to increased **tobacco, alcohol and drug use** that could have long-term effects on their health.



According to ILO, one out of every six young people is currently unemployed with many relegated to the informal economy.

Adolescents and young people have also been more exposed to domestic **violence** as a consequence of the lockdowns and, particularly in the case of women, to sexual violence, along with its serious **physical and emotional consequences**.



## Recommendations around policies and programs

In order to turn this situation around, policy and programmatic actions are recommended that are geared toward:

- Ensuring that young people's educational and vocational training opportunities remain available and accessible.





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- Identifying and supporting those sectors that offer the greatest job opportunities for the most affected young people.

- Ensuring that young people have access to health-care systems for the treatment of COVID-19 even if they are not covered by contributory health insurance systems.



- Introducing new counselling systems, mental health and addiction treatment services, and support for victims of violence during lockdowns.

- Expanding Internet service and access to new technologies for young people living in poverty and/or in marginalized or excluded settlements.



**Once the pandemic has subsided, it will also be important to direct recovery efforts towards the sectors that are most able to create decent and higher-productivity jobs over the long term and to support the development of skills for which there will be a demand in the future.**

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