



UNITED NATIONS

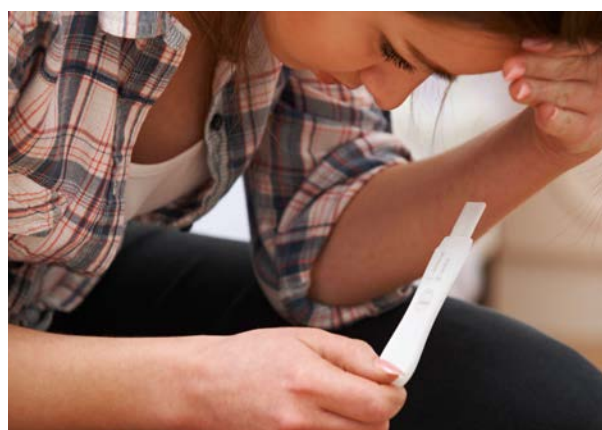
ECLAC

COVID-19 and its impact on children and adolescents

Short-, medium- and long-term impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic is having significant impacts on Latin American and Caribbean girls, boys and adolescents.

For example, the United Nations Population Fund has estimated that there may have been as many as a half million additional early pregnancies in 2020 owing to difficulties in obtaining contraceptives or gaining access to sexual and reproductive health services and to the fact that lockdowns may have increased girls' and adolescents' exposure to domestic sexual violence and abuse.



Most countries in the region suspended in-person classes for all education levels and there are concerns that many students will never go back to school.



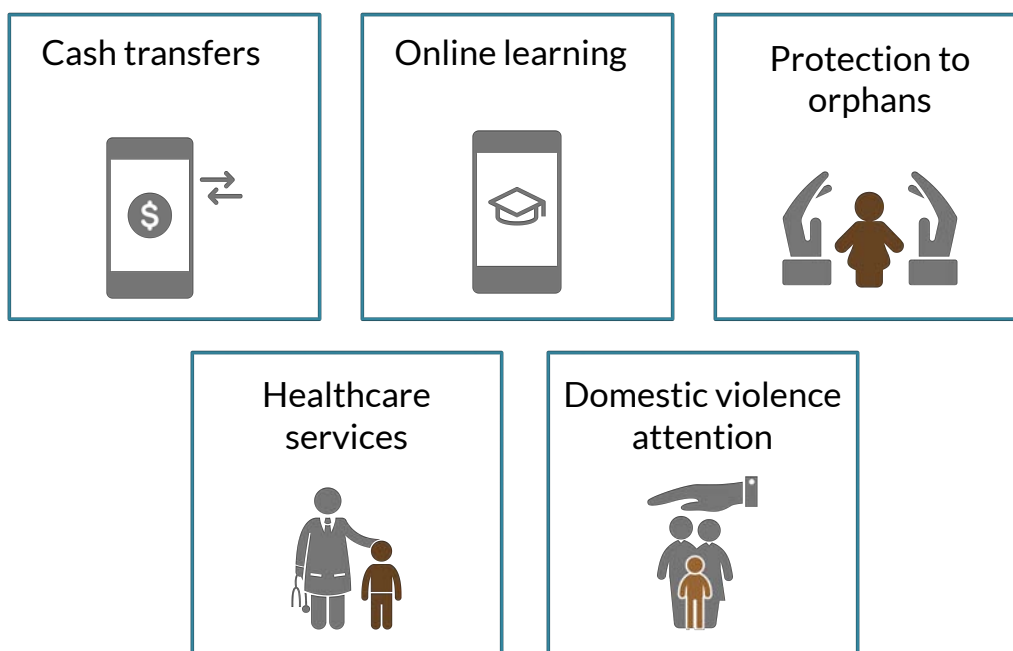
While online learning platforms emerged as the dominant alternative, major **gaps in actual access to digital forms of communication** remain, especially in the case of the **poorest children and adolescents and those living in rural areas**.



Moreover, the loss of so many jobs and sources of income, together with related economic insecurity have heightened the risk of **child labour, sexual exploitation and child marriage.**

Actions

Among the actions and policies governments can adopt to reduce Covid-19's impact on children are:



This document contributes to the activities of the project “Leaving no one behind in Latin America and the Caribbean: strengthening institutions and social policy coherence and integration at the country level to foster equality and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, financed by the eleventh tranche of the United Nations Development Account, and its implementation was coordinated by Simone Cecchini, Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Raúl Holz, Consultant of the same Division, and Humberto Soto de la Rosa, Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC's subregional headquarters in Mexico. More information on the project, including other relevant materials, can be found at: igualdad.cepal.org/en

Based on the text: S. Cecchini, R. Holz and H. Soto de la Rosa (coords.), A toolkit for promoting equality: the contribution of social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/TS.2021/55), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2021.

ECLAC staff members Humberto Soto, Elsa Gutiérrez and Mustafa Al Gamal, with the support of consultants Susan Skinner, Gabriela Ibarra and Ericka Arambarri, participated in the preparation of the document. The support of the Documents and Publications Division for their guidance is gratefully acknowledged. Icons from "The Noun Project" platform and photographs from the Adobe Stock platform were used in the preparation of the contents, with the proper authorizations. Photographs from the United Nations have also been used.

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