

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Introducing the Community-Level Child Protection
Task Force's COVID-19 Guidance



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



The Technical Note

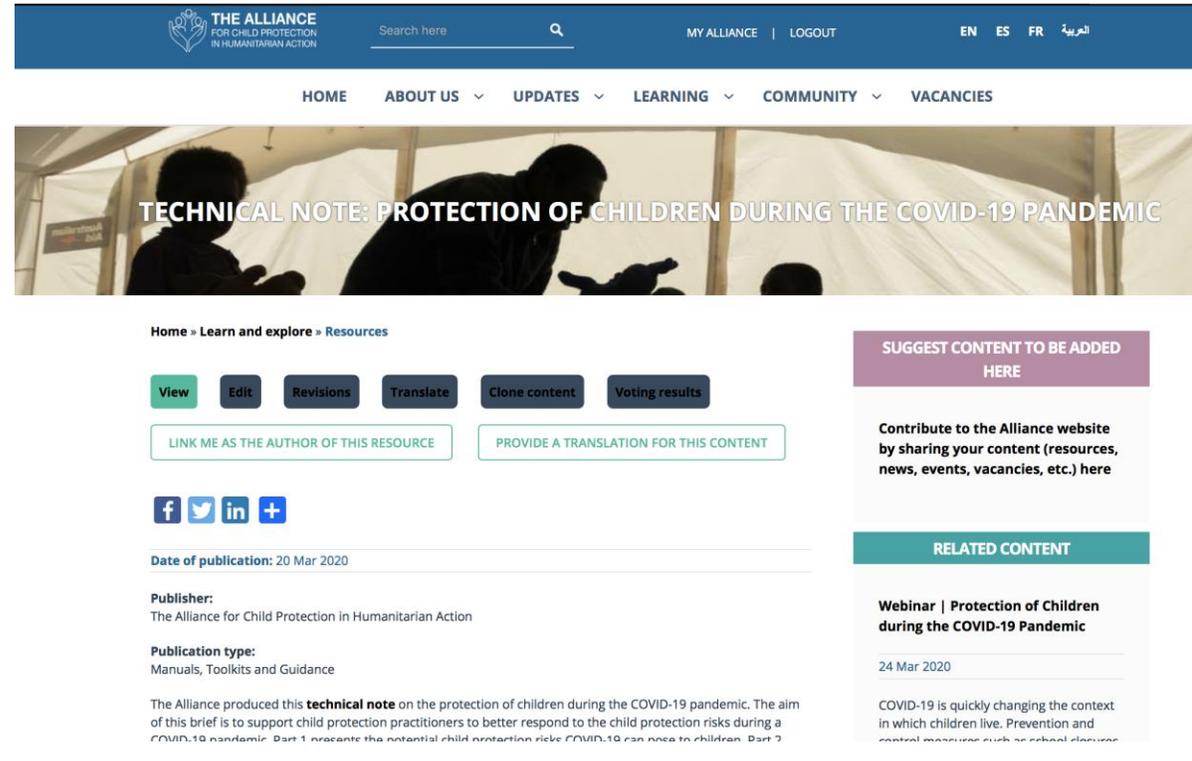


Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic (v.1)¹



Photo courtesy of UNICEF/Leonardo Fernandez/India 2019

Where to find the technical note and other annexes



The screenshot shows the website header with the logo "THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION" and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT US, UPDATES, LEARNING, COMMUNITY, VACANCIES. A search bar is also present. The main banner features a photo of people in a tent and the title "TECHNICAL NOTE: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC". Below the banner, there are buttons for "View", "Edit", "Revisions", "Translate", "Clone content", and "Voting results". There are also two input fields: "LINK ME AS THE AUTHOR OF THIS RESOURCE" and "PROVIDE A TRANSLATION FOR THIS CONTENT". Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a plus sign are shown. The "Date of publication" is 20 Mar 2020. The "Publisher" is The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. The "Publication type" is Manuals, Toolkits and Guidance. A short paragraph of text follows. On the right side, there is a section "SUGGEST CONTENT TO BE ADDED HERE" and a "RELATED CONTENT" section listing a webinar titled "Webinar | Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic" dated 24 Mar 2020.

Home » Learn and explore » Resources

View Edit Revisions Translate Clone content Voting results

LINK ME AS THE AUTHOR OF THIS RESOURCE PROVIDE A TRANSLATION FOR THIS CONTENT

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Date of publication: 20 Mar 2020

Publisher:
The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Publication type:
Manuals, Toolkits and Guidance

The Alliance produced this **technical note** on the protection of children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this brief is to support child protection practitioners to better respond to the child protection risks during a COVID-19 pandemic. Part 1 presents the potential child protection risks COVID-19 can pose to children. Part 2

SUGGEST CONTENT TO BE ADDED HERE

Contribute to the Alliance website by sharing your content (resources, news, events, vacancies, etc.) here

RELATED CONTENT

Webinar | Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic

24 Mar 2020

COVID-19 is quickly changing the context in which children live. Prevention and control measures such as school closures

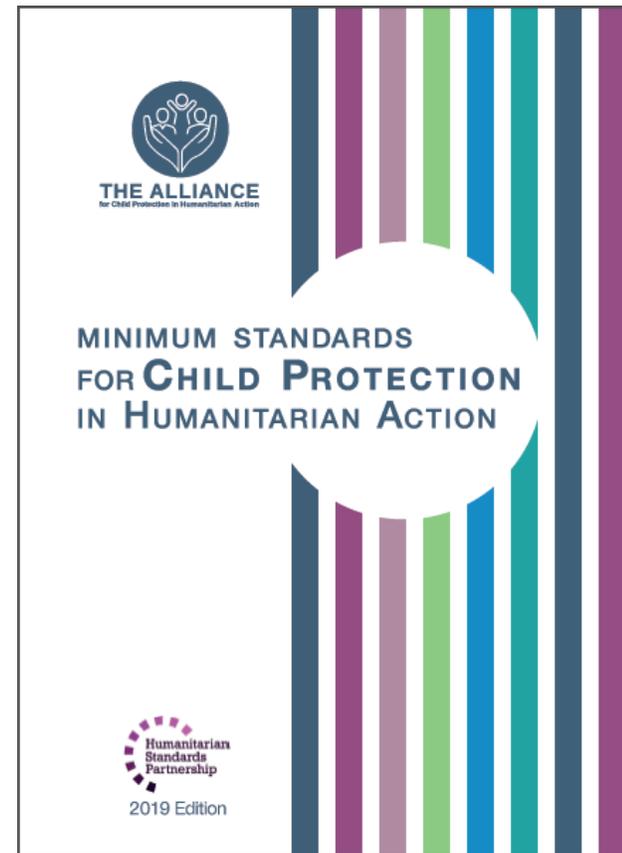
<https://cpie.info/COVID19Note>



Webinar agenda

1. Background
2. Introducing the Guidance Note
3. Country Presentations:
 - Bangladesh, Lebanon, Mexico
 - Q&A
4. Q&A in relation to presentations

Child Protection Minimum Standard 17



STANDARD

Children live in communities that promote their well-being and prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children before, during and after humanitarian crises.

Community-level Approaches to Child Protection



All resources can be found here:
<https://cpie.info/ccp>



INTRODUCING THE CCP GUIDANCE NOTE

*Working with communities to keep children safe
in times of COVID-19*

By Caroline Veldhuizen (SC), Rinske Ellermeijer (WCH) and Lucy Hillier (Community Child Protection Exchange)



A PERFECT STORM:
MILLIONS MORE
CHILDREN AT RISK
OF VIOLENCE UNDER
LOCKDOWN AND INTO
THE 'NEW NORMAL'

Key findings of this report



Up to **85 million more girls and boys worldwide** may be exposed to physical, sexual and/or emotional violence over three months as a result of COVID-19 quarantine.

We believe many of **13 million extra child marriages** predicted by UNFPA will occur in the years immediately following the crises, with at least **4 million** more girls married in the next two years.



A national assessment supported by World Vision and coalition partners in Bangladesh revealed **beatings by parents or guardians had increased by 42%** and that there was a **40% increase of calls to the child helpline.**



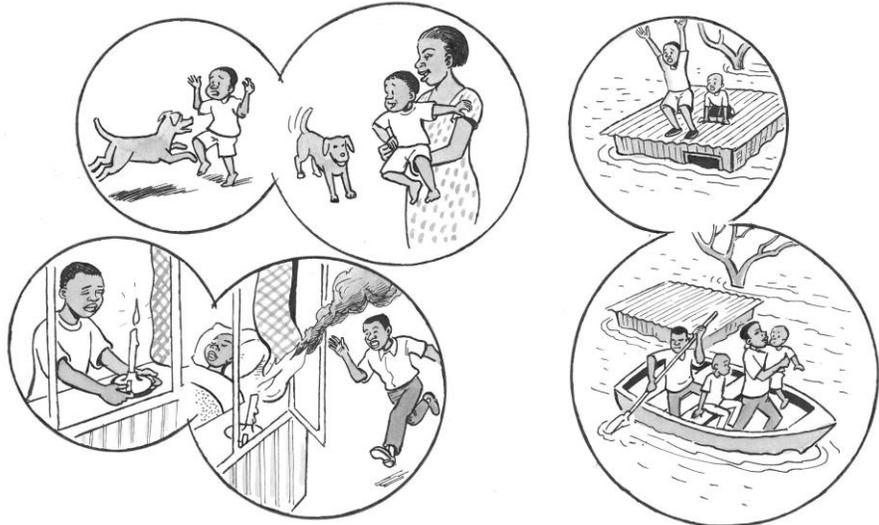
COVID-19 GUIDANCE NOTE: Working with communities to keep children safe

1. Understanding how communities organize themselves to protect children in times of COVID-19
2. Working with communities to implement safe and effective ways to protect children in times of COVID-19
 - ✓ Safe, child-friendly and effective awareness raising in light of COVID-19
 - ✓ Strengthen the family and caregiving environment to promote children's healthy development and keep them safe
 - ✓ Monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and families
3. The health, safety and wellbeing of community members

Message 1- Work with communities to understand how they organise themselves to protect children during COVID-19



HOW COMMUNITIES PROTECT CHILDREN THEMSELVES



TASKS:
THE NGO HELPS THE COMMUNITY ESTABLISH A CHILD PROTECTION GROUP



JAN: CREATE COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION GROUP



FEB: CONSULT COMMUNITY



MARCH: AGREE ON A PLAN OF ACTION



APRIL-AUG: IMPLEMENT THE PLAN



SEPT: GROUP MEMBERS REPORT BACK ON THEIR ACTIVITIES

IS THIS A COMMUNITY LED APPROACH ?

The illustrations used here were developed by *Guide and Toolkit for supporting a community-led approach to child protection*. communityledcp.org

Message 2- Work with communities to strengthen the monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and their families



The illustrations used here were developed by *Guide and Toolkit for supporting a community-led approach to child protection.*
communityledcp.org

Message 3- Work with communities on a holistic approach in promoting children's safety and healthy development in the homes



Oral or written journaling

Both you and your child can talk through your feelings: "Today I am feeling...", "Today I am grateful for...", "I know I am strong because...", "When I grow up I want to...", "If I were the leader of this country I would...", "My happiest day was...". For children with more advanced writing skills, taking time to reflect and express their thoughts and emotions on paper can be a great way for them to manage stress.

Above: Tips for parents and caregivers during COVID-19 School Closures: Supporting children's wellbeing and learning (in the guidance links)



Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



Children may respond to stress in different ways such as being more clingy, anxious, withdrawing, angry or agitated, bedwetting etc.

Respond to your child's reactions in a supportive way, listen to their concerns and give them extra love and attention.

Children need adults' love and attention during difficult times. Give them extra time and attention.

Remember to listen to your children, speak kindly and reassure them.

If possible, make opportunities for the child to play and relax.



Message 4 – Be creative and learn new skills

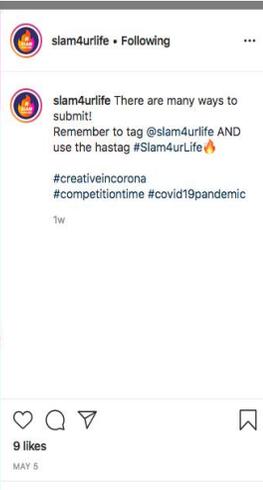
HOW TO SUBMIT

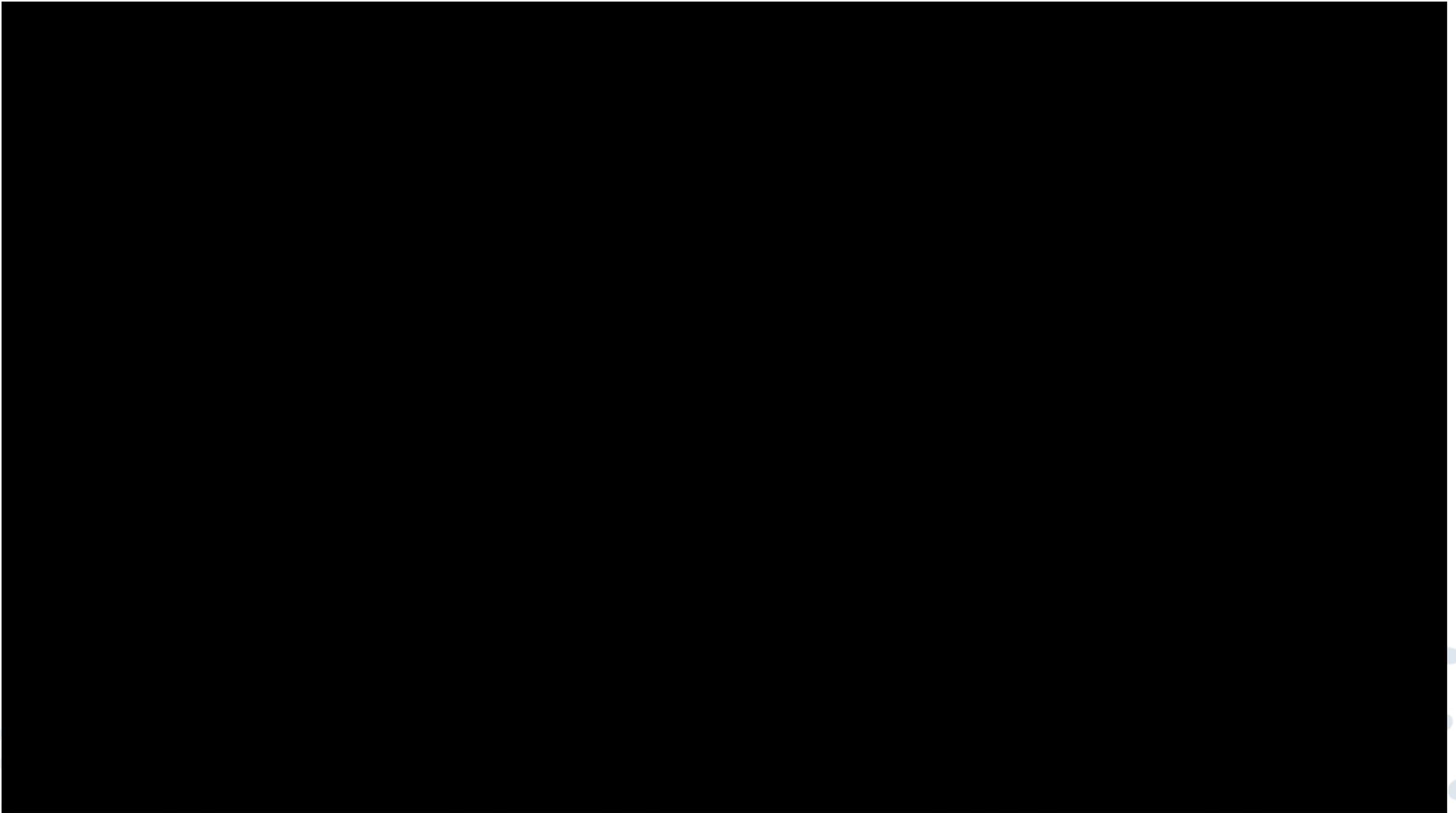
POST UR CONTENT ON ANY OF THESE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

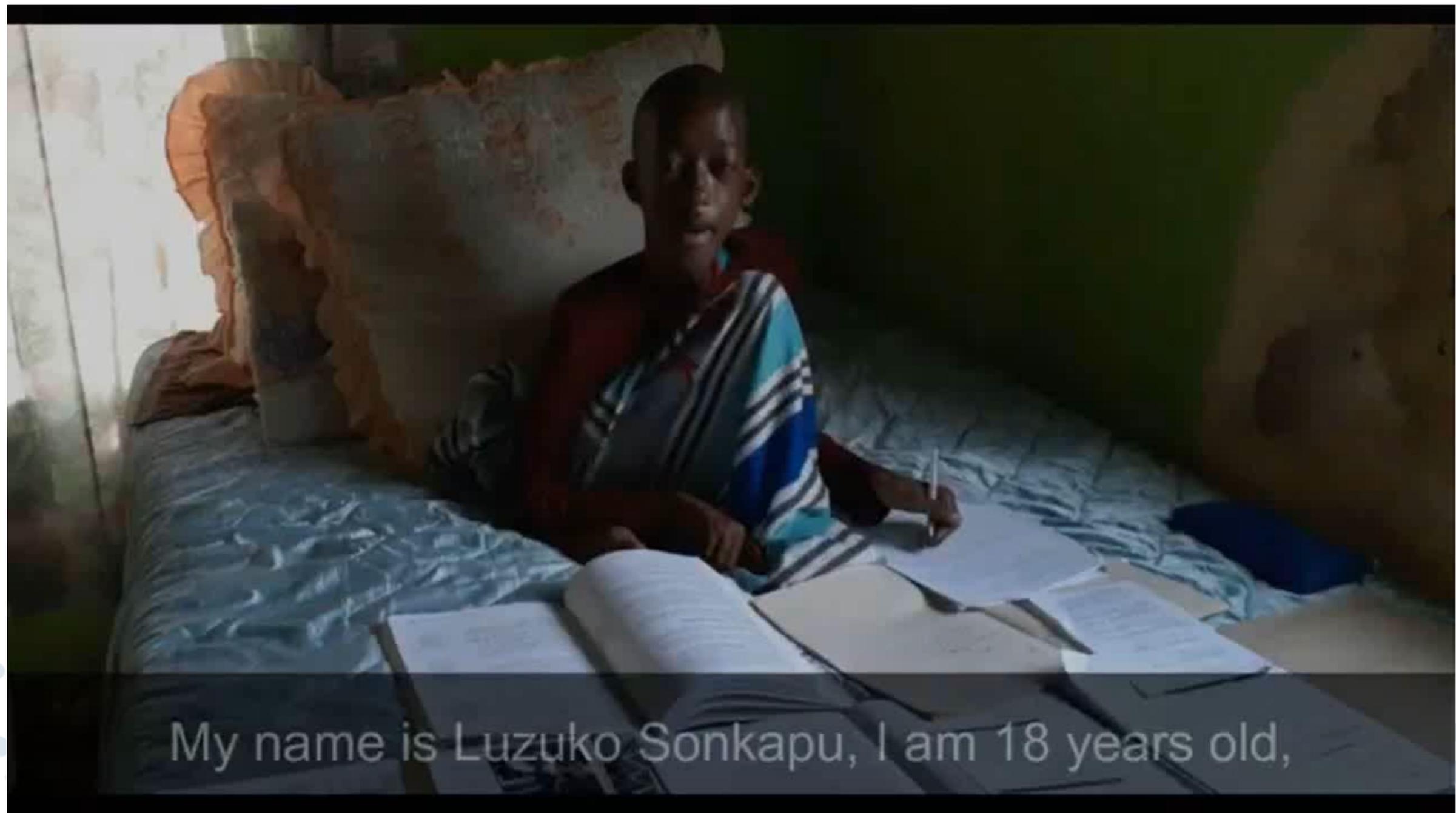
- Tiktok
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Whatsapp 0600 54 8676

@slam4urlife and use the hashtag #slam4urlife

#SLAM 4 UR LIFE







My name is Luzuko Sonkapu, I am 18 years old,

Bangladesh

Community Level Engagement in Refugee Camp

By: Krissie Hayes, CP AoR Coordinator



Total Refugee Population

Total Refugee Population

860,175 individuals

187,530 families

Context Overview

Context overview of Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar

- Largest refugee camp in the world with 860,175 individuals – 51% are children
- 8th April, restrictions on **access** to the camp imposed to contain COVID-19
- Only **Child Protection** critical service permitted was “**case management**”
- **Maximum 137 Child Protection case workers** permitted in camps on any given day

Child Protection Concerns observed in camps COVID-19

- Increase **Violence against Children** (including notable rise violence in the home)
- Increase **Child Marriage**
- Lost and missing children
- Dangers and injuries
- Increase exposure to trafficking and smuggling
- Psychosocial distress and anxiety

Situation required dramatic increase in focus, resources and attention to ensure community level mechanisms to protect children!

Community Level Child Protection a priority for CP Sub-Sector

Pre-COVID 19

Pre-established community level engagement

- *CBCP programs*
 - 865 Community Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs)
 - Engagement with religious and community leaders
- *Volunteers*
 - Volunteers trained to support various CP partner activities

Community-level engagement established and supported by CP partners directly

COVID-19 shift

Need to almost exclusively rely on community-level CP groups

- Smaller groups (4-5) of Community Child protection members and volunteers relied upon for all CP activities
 - PSS
 - Awareness raising
 - Positive parenting
 - Monitoring CP risks
 - Responding/intervening for CP risks
 - Referrals!
- Volunteers relied on for case management with remote supervision

Community-level engagement now led by communities with CP Sub-Sector

Deep dive: Monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and families (guidance section 2.4)

Communities and volunteers have primary responsibility for child protection in COVID 19

- **Communities** monitor child protection concerns to share information to CPSS
- **Community level focal points** identified (by communities) to respond to specific CP risks, for example
 - Who in the community intervenes to prevent child marriage (e.g. religious leader)?
 - Who in the community does a child turn to for PSS?
 - Who in the community is focal point in event of separation
- **Volunteers** have up to date referral pathways

Tools to support

- CPSS interim Guidance note **priority intervention 2: Strengthening Community Level Protection**
- Alternative Care CXB guidance – focus on **community level planning** to pre-identify preferred temporary caregiver
- Guidance on supporting Volunteers remotely
- Guidance on remote case management through volunteers

More under development

Challenges and opportunities to community level engagement in times of COVID 19

Challenges

- Language for remote support
- Telecommunications
- Data collection and monitoring
- Rumours
- Community commitments

Opportunities

- Empowerment of communities
- Opportunity for strengthened ownership/leadership by community actors
- Increased buy-in for future “bottom-up” approaches!

Covid-19 Guidance Working with communities to keep children safe

Key take-aways for CP Sub-Sector in CXB

- CPSS in process of developing Guidance Note on CLCP for CXB in COVID 19
- Key considerations we need to strengthen:
 - Encouraging “soft skills” when engaging with communities
 - Engaging adolescents and youth
 - Reducing rumours and stigma
 - Protecting health, safety and well-being of key community members
 - Support to communities to strengthen Caring for Child Survivors

Lebanon

Working with faith communities to keep children safe in times of
COVID-19

By: Zoubeida Abouasaly (Zsazsa), Child Protection & Advocacy Technical Lead,
World Vision Lebanon

Engaging faith leaders to contribute in keeping children safe in times of COVID-19 by:

- 1- Supporting their initiatives to promote safe and healthy behavior.
- 2- Enabling them to take leadership in tackling stigma and fear in the community.



- 3- Enriching their care for the most vulnerable children towards protection risks.
- 4- Fostering collaboration of faith leaders with other parts of CP system (services etc).

Results in numbers:

1. Children reached - 28750
2. Parents reached – 11500 parents and caregivers
3. Families reached - 5900
4. CP System – 9 local CP system
5. Faith leaders – 60 leaders from all denominations



Faith Leaders - channels to hope to the community for child protection!

They can be catalysers

in engaging other parts of CP system,

to change a crises into a positive impact for children.

Mexico

By: Selvia Vargas Kotasek, Thematic Content Officer,
Save the Children

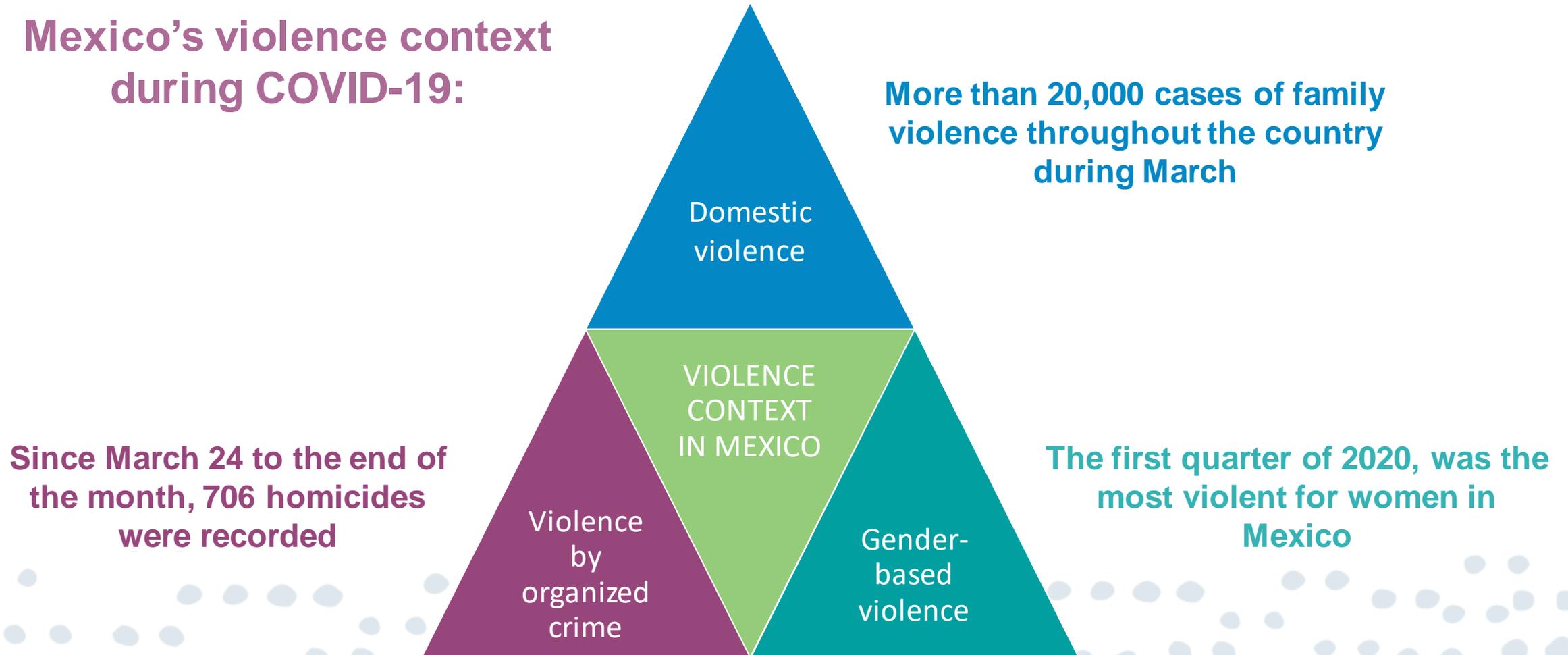


HOW TO MAKE HOME A SAFE SPACE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS?

AN APPROACH FOR FAMILIES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

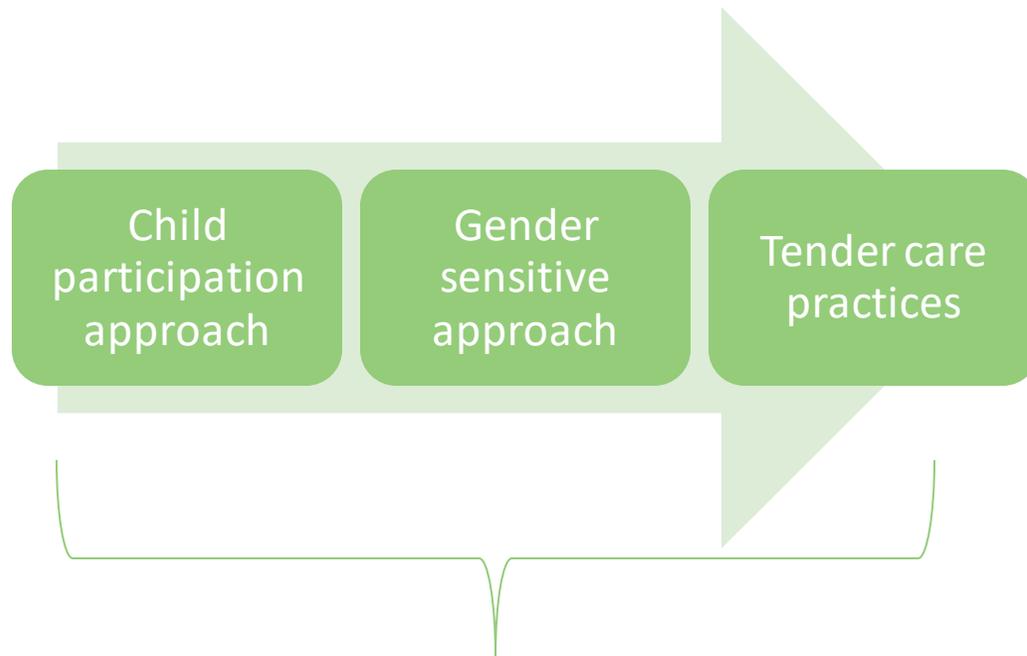
How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Mexico's violence context during COVID-19:



How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

The approach



HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF A SAFE HOME

Protection, participation, equality, containment and emotional care and education



How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Explaining the approach

1. Identify your family's needs

2. Set a routine

3. Share out housework

4. Caring for children and adolescents

5. Strengthen your relationship with your children

6. Encourage children and adolescents to get involved

7. Foster learning

8. Support your children's and adolescents' emotions

9. Protect children and adolescents from abuse

10. Be resilient

11. Live together as equals

12. Reduce the risk of accidents in the house

How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Community engagement

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Community Centers

Community spaces for protection and care, where girls and boys have access to initial and preschool education

“I have done my best to make it work, I have taken my children's opinions into account, I listen to them and then try to complement their ideas with my own, I let them make decisions and we share the housework. We do different activities and have created a daily routine, we are strengthening the parent-child relationship, we promote the participation of our children in our home”

Mother of a 4-year-old girl, and a 5-year-old boy. They attend the Community Center "El tren de la infancia" in Mexico City



How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Community engagement

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Community Centers

“I have shared the information with the mothers' group and most of them have implemented it since the girls and boys are anxious, but the mothers comment that with the activities that are suggested and the monitoring of the teachers, together with my support in emotional health issues for the parents, abuse has been avoided, they have been able to organize themselves at home, play with their children and carry out activities suggested by Save the Children”

Teresa, coordinator of the Community Center “Temoatzin” in Mexico City

ALGUNOS PASOS PARA CREAR UNA BUENA RUTINA FAMILIAR SON:

- Definir en familia **cuáles son sus actividades diarias** y **cuándo** deben llevarse a cabo.
- Incluir otras actividades que sean **de interés para niñas y niños**, y **acordar horarios** para llevarlas a cabo. Algunos ejemplos:
 - De aprendizaje a través del juego y el arte
 - De movimiento
 - De relajación y ocio
 - Autocuidado personal



- Considerar que **niñas y niños tienen ritmos más pausados**, por lo que conviene **tener pocas actividades** al día para que se tomen el tiempo que necesitan en realizarlas y distribuirlos a lo largo de la semana.
- Aceptar que habrá un **tiempo de adaptación** hasta que todas y todos puedan ajustarse esta nueva dinámica. Sé paciente con niñas y niños y ayúdales a adaptarse desde la empatía y el respeto.

- Entender la **rutina** como un acuerdo de **organización flexible** y **no como una imposición** rígida de horarios y deberes. Evita que se convierta en una fuente de estrés y ansiedad para niñas y niños.
- **Iniciar el día planeando qué hacer junto con tus hijas e hijos**; así también fomentas su participación y toma de decisiones.





QUESTIONS?

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We are happy to continue facilitating conversations and further adapting and developing guidance, but we'd like to hear from you!

Please share in the chatbox:

1. What are your priorities for future sessions or annexes to the guidance?
2. What forum do you prefer?

Finally, in light of COVID-19 please share with us:

- Feedback on the CCP Guidance and missing information/ details
- Lessons learnt and good practices in relation to working with communities on CP
- Newly developed and/or contextualized guidance and tools for community-level CP

THANK YOU!

