



Inter-American
Children's
Institute



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for more people

***“Children Rights Guarantees.
Mental Health in Time of Crisis***

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IIN / OEA

Children and Historical Pandemics

- Centuries ago:

- Infanticide
- Child Labour



- Children and the exercise of the right to PARTICIPATE.

- Children organization difficulties.
- Children on the public social and politic AGENDA.
- The des value of children VOICE.

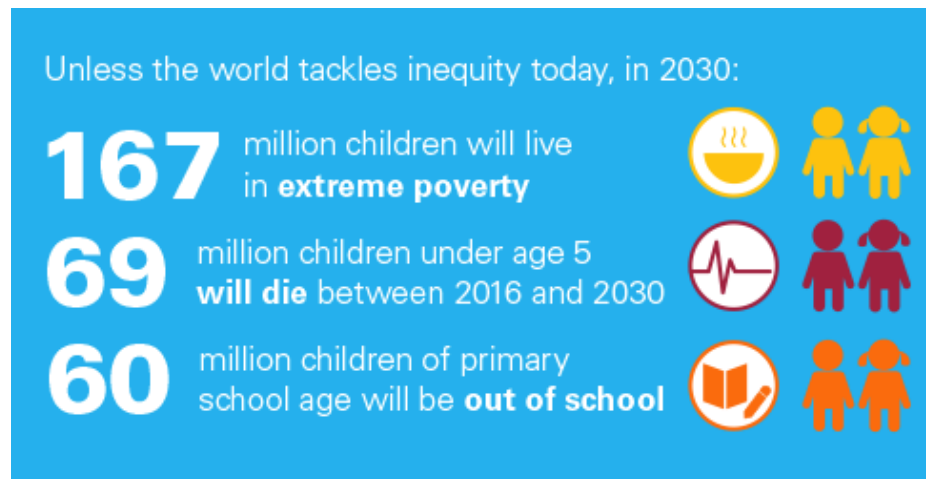


- Different kinds of VIOLENCE against children.

- Neonatal mortality. (40% of neonatal deaths could be prevented – UNICEF; 2016).
- Child poverty and extreme poverty.
- Child Mortality. (5.6 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2016 – WHO: 2016. More than 50% could be avoided with simple and affordable interventions.
- Stunted Growth. (149 million children under the age of 5 suffered – UNICEF: 2019).

Children and Historical Pandemics

- Public BUDGETS assigned for children. (Prevention and protection).
- The rate of violence and murder in some countries of America is catalogue as a pandemic from WHO.



Source: UNICEF 2016

You may wonder...



- I do wonder:

Why the planet didn't mobilize as now, in order to protect massive impacts to children?

Why certain damages have not been and are not a global priority?

Living the Pandemic. Children's **Losses...**

- Access to basic services (health control, education, alimentation, recreation).
- Institutional and community spaces and referents. Some of them are the most protectors actors in the comprehensive protection system.
- Family and friends material bonds.
- Contact with their peers.
- Daily routines.
- Play time and some kind of games.
- Mother nature daily contact.
- Stable environment (social and family employment situations).

NEGATIVE EFFECTS:

- Isolation or loneliness feeling.
- Stress (more prolonged more toxic).
- High rates of boredom.
- May appear irritability, anxiety, restlessness .
- Fear of own and loved ones illnesses.

Living the Pandemic. Children's **Gains...**

- It's a big question mark!
- Depends on the material and emotional conditions of house, home and family.

- Best scenario:
 - To enrich bond with parents, creative and participative new home organization, intergenerational play time, virtual educations, etc.

- Worst scenario:
 - Increase violent situations.
 - Pass to live all day with the aggressor.
 - No contact with the external world.
 - No referents. Nobody to ask for help.
 - Poverty conditions. Lack of food.
 - Lack of clear information.
 - Lack of participative spaces.

Living the Pandemic. The **Challenge...**

- For the public policy (every institution of the comprehensive protection system):
 - To know exactly what is happening at every home, from any actor or local territorial service (teacher, doctor, educator, social worker, referent form nearby NGO).
- The family:
 - Face the situation without hidings children and adolescent the difficult.
 - Open participation spaces to listen and be all part of the new family organization.
 - Recognize children and adolescent capacity to face and to propose alternatives.
 - Allow and be able to share and receive the fear and uncertainty of the moment.
 - Build a narrative of the situation. The inability to make sense of a potentially traumatic situation, could cause a personal breakdown.



GRATEFUL...

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