UNICEF Innocenti is undertaking a wide range of research projects to provide evidence needed to inform UNICEF and its partner’s work to respond to immediate and longer term consequences of the pandemic. Longer-term works will be undertaken as more information and evidence come to light.

**RESEARCH**

**SHORT TERM PROJECTS**

**Identifying good practices for equitable remote learning during COVID-19 school closures**

Rapid analysis of promising remote learning practices during school closures and how it affects all children, including those most vulnerable without electricity. Builds on data collected from country offices and other sources.

**Parental engagement in children’s learning: Insights for remote learning response during COVID-19**

Rapid analysis using MICS 6 data on the potential of child-oriented books at home and the parental role for learning, especially with no access to technology.

**Social protection for families and children: considerations for a post COVID-19 response**

Comparative research will determine what social protection changes we may see in different countries when seeking to protect children from the health and financial crisis.

**PRINCIPLES OF COVID-19 RESEARCH**

- Understand & interpret existing evidence collected under differing circumstances
- Focus on vulnerable groups & children
- Gender & intergenerational lens
- Child-focused
- Action, policy, & impact oriented

**RESEARCH PROMOTION**

Blogs, webinars, & other communications products are disseminating and promoting the new research. The communications team scans for & highlights key publications & data sources from partner organisations.

For more contact drichardson@unicef.org

UNICEF-IRC.ORG/COVID19
The importance of children's internet access during COVID-19
Analysis of new data from Global Kids Online and EU Kids Online on: children’s internet access, proportion of children accessing health information online, and extent to which they are able to verify the truth of online information.

Estimating the impact of COVID-19 measures on the prevalence of physical punishment of children
Nationally-representative data will be analysed to determine the most useful methodology to estimate the impact of COVID-19 measures on harsh discipline of children. This will complement additional analyses by UNICEF using 'big data' and administrative helpline data.

COVID-19 & school closures: impacts on child wellbeing
A variety of data sources will be analysed to measure impacts of school closures on multiple dimensions of child wellbeing on vulnerable groups, including schooling, learning outcomes, health, nutrition, mental wellbeing, violence, early marriage, child labour, and others.

COVID-19 & school reopenings: strategies and measures for mitigating the impact of COVID-19
This research will describe the strategies that countries are putting in place to mitigate the negative impacts of school closures on children’s learning outcomes, particularly on the most vulnerable groups.

LONG TERM PROJECTS

Children’s experiences and views of COVID-19
Children’s voices on this global issue must be heard and considered when formulating responses. Focusing on the most vulnerable children, primary research will ask: How do children experience the COVID-19 situation?

COVID-19 lessons on providing assistive technology to persons with disability in humanitarian response
This study will help us better understand how assistive technology is provisioned in humanitarian response and will study coordination and national governance challenges.

Children’s use of digital technology during COVID-19
Online surveys across eleven European countries will help understand: what digital engagement looks like during COVID-19; how it has changed; and what support children need to take advantage of the internet during lockdowns.
**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**

**Pandemics, Epidemics and Child Protection Outcomes, a rapid review**
This review will synthesise existing evidence and consider the likely socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. It will help amplify the importance of integrating child protection into COVID-19 responses and crisis preparedness strategies.

**Epidemiology of COVID-19 among children and adolescents**
Early evidence suggests insufficient attention on the direct effects of COVID-19 on children and adolescents; a wide variation of the COVID-19 caseload among children across countries; limited disaggregated data by age, sex, and other stratifiers; and a lack of understanding of the severity of disease, especially the multi-inflammatory system syndrome.

**Review of emerging evidence on mental health among children and adolescents**
A review of evidence from previous health crises on children and adolescents’ mental health, including from humanitarian settings and emerging evidence on the impact of COVID-19.

**Review of emerging evidence on social impacts of COVID-19 on children, families, and communities**
A review of evidence from previous health crises on the social impacts on children, families, and communities, including from humanitarian settings and emerging evidence from COVID-19.

**Children and COVID-19 Research Library**
An open-access, fully searchable, and curated repository of the latest scientific evidence related to COVID-19 and children will be made available as a global public good in mid-July.

**ETHICS**

**Ethical considerations for evidence generation involving children on COVID-19**
This work explores the ethical considerations when undertaking evidence generation involving children on COVID-19.

**Ethical issues in the use of digital technology for contact tracing and surveillance**
High quality data is essential to support decision makers’ response to COVID-19, but the collation and use of personally identifiable data may pose significant risks to children’s rights.

**LEADING MINDS ONLINE**
The new Coronavirus & Children Series: What the experts say will host expert consultations to garner expertise and experience on pandemics, responses and effects on children, and support efforts by our research teams, research teams, other UNICEF divisions, and external partners.

6 May: COVID-19 & Children Online WATCH NOW
21 May: COVID-19 & Violence in the Home WATCH NOW
4 June: COVID-19 & Support for Families WATCH NOW
18 June: COVID-19, Remote Learning, & Beyond WATCH NOW
2 July: COVID-19 & Hand Hygiene REGISTER NOW
16 July: COVID-19 & Mental Health