While children and young people have been spared the full force of coronavirus itself, the worst is yet to come for this generation as the global economy enters unchartered territory. How can we protect children from the effects of the economic downturn?

**This is a crisis like no other**
The economic impacts of the COVID crisis are only just beginning to be felt, but we can learn from previous crises and recognise that austerity does not work. Instead, we should focus on balancing economic stimulus and supporting children and their families directly. A long adjustment period for children lies ahead, many of whom have no safety net to fall back on.

**Trust in institutions**
Countries that are coping better are taking rules, and international advice seriously. To respond to this crisis, we must listen to the experts. This includes advice on managing money - we cannot overspend too quickly, tighten belts too quickly, or reduce development assistance when low-income countries need the support most.

**Future-proof childhood**
We cannot afford to make the same mistakes made in previous crises, like the 2008 financial crash. We must increase spending and strengthen interventions for children of all ages. Many responses so far have been insufficient to meet a crisis of this magnitude.