

What the experts say: Coronavirus and the climate crisis

LEADING MINDS ONLINE | 22 OCTOBER 2020

From March to May, the world stood still. The impossible seemed possible: greenhouse gasses fell by 17%. The right result but for the wrong reasons. Has COVID-19 changed climate change? Can children - who have left the least damage on the planet - now make the biggest difference?

COVID stimulus plans must include greening plans

In response to COVID-19, world leaders got together and mobilized over \$10 trillion. This shows us that the political will – and crucially funds – can be secured to address global issues, such as climate change. COVID stimulus plans can and must include structural changes to reduce greenhouse gases and invest in greening options. As yet, this opportunity is [not being fully grasped](#).

COVID is an opportunity to tackle inequalities and intersecting crises

COVID-19 has shone a light on the impacts of the climate crisis and the need for climate action. Both the pandemic and the climate crisis converge and interact with each other, impacting on child health, therefore the solutions must converge.

Sustainable development and responding to COVID are not mutually exclusive

The same systems that created the climate crisis are deepening the inequalities caused by the COVID crisis. We must learn from the pandemic to better understand where inequalities come from and how they can be reduced.

[WATCH THE RECORDING: YOUTUBE.COM/UNICEFINNOCENTI](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFINNOCENTI)



Anthony
Nyong



Beth
Doherty



Gautam
Narasimhan



Vandana
Shiva



LEADING MINDS

20 ONLINE 20

Young people are very scared. The point of no return is not far off.

The climate crisis is no less urgent than the pandemic and it will likely affect children in the long-term more than COVID-19.

The COVID response fund is borrowed from children's future. We owe it to them to ensure this is serving their needs and the longer-term effects of climate change.

To address the climate crisis, systemic changes are needed in food production, energy generation, transport patterns, and personal choices.

When someone studies 2020 in history class in the future, will they see that we did what is necessary to preserve our future?

unicef 

Office of Research-Innocenti

#LEADINGMINDS



UNICEF-IRC.ORG/COVID19