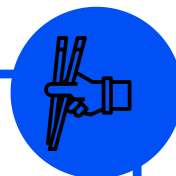




Adequate Standard of Living

#CovidUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus is an initiative to meaningfully involve children in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 26,258 children from 137 countries across all five UN regions responded to our survey. More detail on this can be found at the end of this paper. This briefing presents findings that relate to adequate standard of living



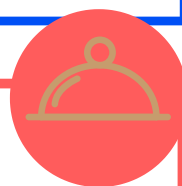
ARTICLE 27 UNCRC

Article 27 of the [UNCRC](#) says that all children have the right to an adequate standard of living.

This includes nutrition, clothing and housing as well as financial assistance where needed. [Article 24](#) says that children must also have access to clean drinking water.

Our survey shows that some children have less food since coronavirus and that some families have less money to meet their children's needs since coronavirus. This was worse for some groups of children than others.

Across the survey responses children made reference to the negative economic impact of the pandemic both on society and their families. They expressed concern that parents did not have enough money to fulfil basic needs, especially where parents or family members became unemployed following the pandemic. Children were experiencing food shortages, which caused anxiety. They also highlighted an increased cost of living including additional expenses such as purchase of soap for hand washing.

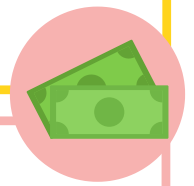


FOOD

20% of all children said they had less food since coronavirus with 65% saying this had not changed. 23% of 8-10 year olds reported they had less food compared to 17% of 13-17 year olds. 19% of children who were living at home reported they had less food compared to 9% of those living in residential care

38% of children from the migrant community said they had less food since coronavirus while 48% said this remained the same as before. 40% of asylum seeking children said they had less food since coronavirus; 44% said they had the same as before.

24% of children who identified as having a disability said they had less food since coronavirus compared to 18% of children without disabilities.



MONEY

41% of all children said their family had less money to meet their needs since coronavirus. For 54% of children family income did not appear to change.

This was worse for some groups: a majority of migrant children (**58%**) and asylum seeking children (**56%**) said their family had less money to meet their needs since coronavirus. Almost half of children with disabilities said their family had less money (**46%**).

49% of 8-10 year olds reported their family had less money to meet their needs compared to **36%** of 13-17 year olds.

'No money we can't meet our needs.' (Girl, 11, Pakistan)

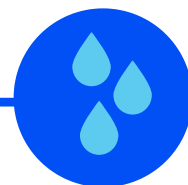
'Money is hard to find for my dad.' (Boy, 15, Zambia)

'I would urge the government to do more for the Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities because we are in an even more difficult economic and social situation. The pandemic has aggravated our economic situation even more as family members have lost their jobs.' Girl, 11, Albania)

'I'm waiting when school will reopen so that I don't need to work.' (Girl, 13, India)



Adequate Standard of Living



WATER

Access to enough clean drinking water remained the same for the majority of children (83%). However for 4% of children access to clean drinking water reduced since the start of coronavirus.

Access to clean drinking water was more difficult for some groups of children: 15% of asylum seeking children, 9% of children from migrant communities and 8% of children from ethnic minority communities said they had less clean drinking water than before.

'I can tell the government to help us with clean and safe drinking water.'
(Girl, 17, Zambia)

IMAGINE YOU COULD TALK TO GOVERNMENT

Children told us they would tell government...



'I would tell them to make a list of the families in need and to send them help, financially or with food/water/medicine.' (Girl, 15, Croatia)

'I could advise them to improve the water supply (clean) in rural areas.'
(Boy, 16, Rwanda)

'Help poor people to get food for their children' (Boy, 15, Iraq)

'I ask you to help children in poor families. But not with money, better with food and household items, clothes, stationery, books. Reduce mortgage interest. Give parents and children the opportunity to relax at sea.' (Girl, 13, Russia)

'Please make sure that children don't go to bed with empty stomach. They have a right to be well fed. And their parents get enough money to look after the basic needs like medical needs of children.' (Girl, 17, India)



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#CovidUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus is an initiative to meaningfully involve children in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 26,258 children from 137 countries across all five UN regions responded to the survey.

All children have rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). #CovidUnder19 is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together children, civil society organisations, academia and other partners to work together in understanding children's experiences of their rights during the COVID19 pandemic. A goal of #CovidUnder19 is to create a space for children across the globe to be meaningfully involved in the discussions around issues triggered by the COVID19 pandemic and contribute towards shaping the post-COVID19 world.

On 28 May 2020, the initiative launched a global consultation survey to understand children's experiences of their rights under the coronavirus pandemic and their views on how their rights could be better realised. The survey applied the Centre for Children's Rights' innovative approach to rights-based research directly involving children and young people as advisors from the outset. The survey has been designed by child rights experts and 270 children from 26 countries. The survey was open until 31 July 2020. It was made available in 27 languages as well as an Easy Read version for children and young people with intellectual disabilities.

Children and young people contributed to data analysis and interpretation. Each thematic paper presents key findings. Data is disaggregated as far as possible and where findings are significant. Please note that the survey is not intended to be representative of the global child population. Findings are presented on a global basis.

For more information please contact covidunder19@gmail.com

The Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast designed and conducted the survey and developed the thematic briefings in collaboration with Initiative partners and a team of child advisors. This was supported by an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account award through Queen's University Belfast