



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Technical Note **BRIEF:**
Protection of Children during
the COVID-19 Pandemic

VERSION 2

Photo courtesy of UNICEF/Leonardo Fernandez/India 2019

In Brief

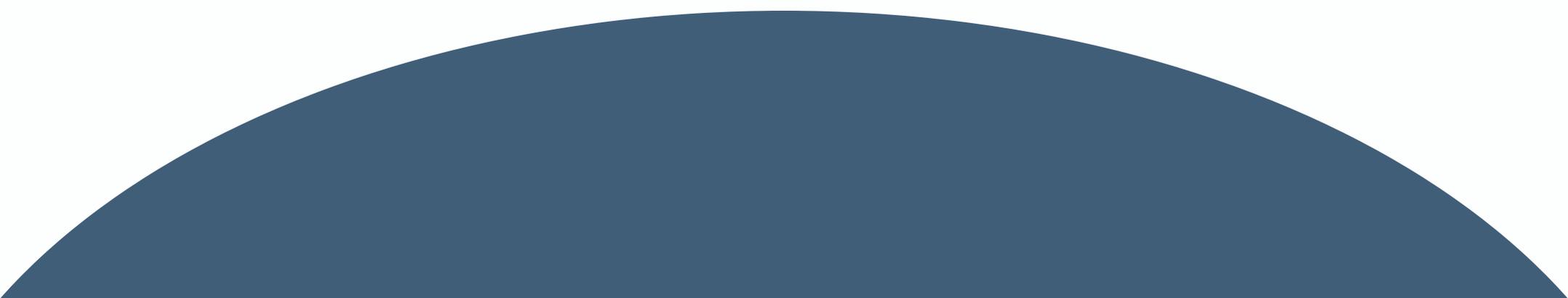
Scroll through for an overview* – including key questions and considerations – of version 2 of the Alliance's Technical Note on Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

*Please visit [The Alliance's COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) to read the full Technical Note and access additional guidance on child protection during COVID-19.



Aim of the Technical Note

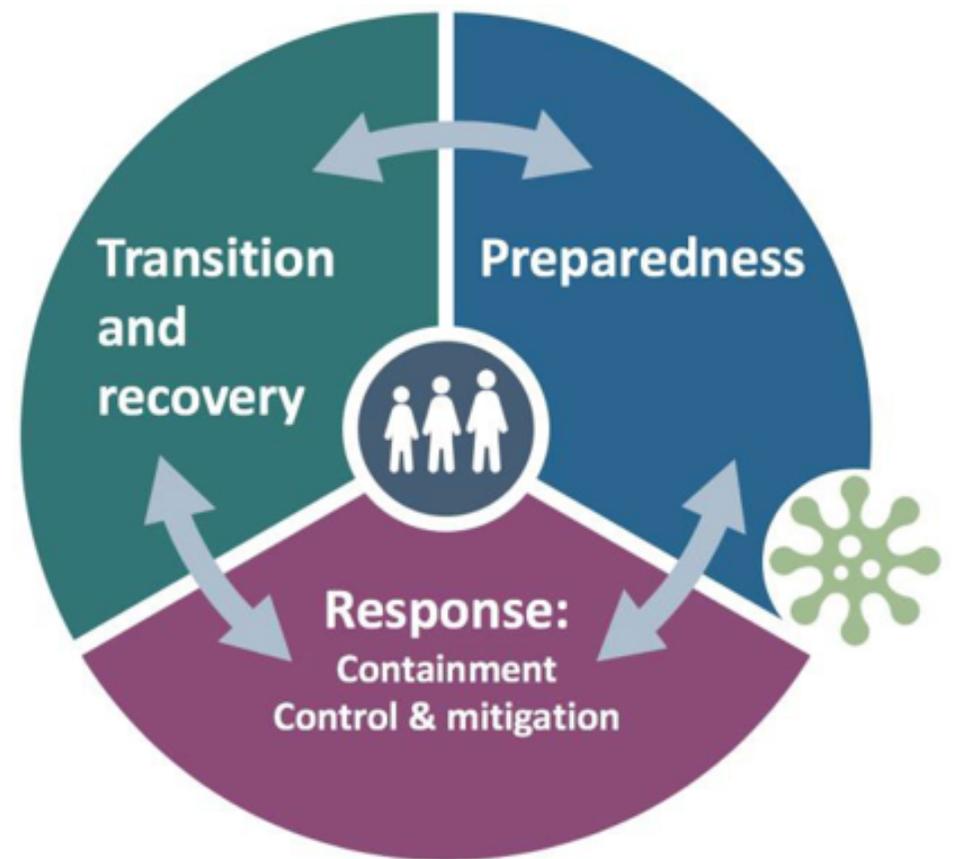
To support child protection practitioners and policy makers in putting the child's safety and well-being at the center of their COVID-19 pandemic response



1. What are the stages of COVID-19 response?

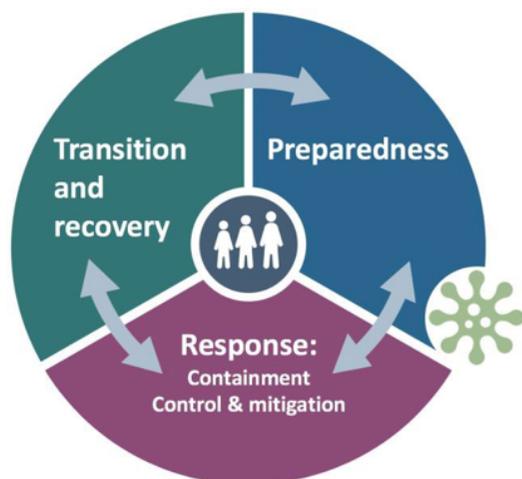
The COVID-19 pandemic is a dynamic situation.

For example, after entering the transition phase, the disease may begin to spread again, triggering renewed scale-up of containment measures.



Many contexts have already experienced these shifts between the different phases, proving the **need for close and constant monitoring and agile and adaptive approaches.**

1. What are the stages of COVID-19 response?



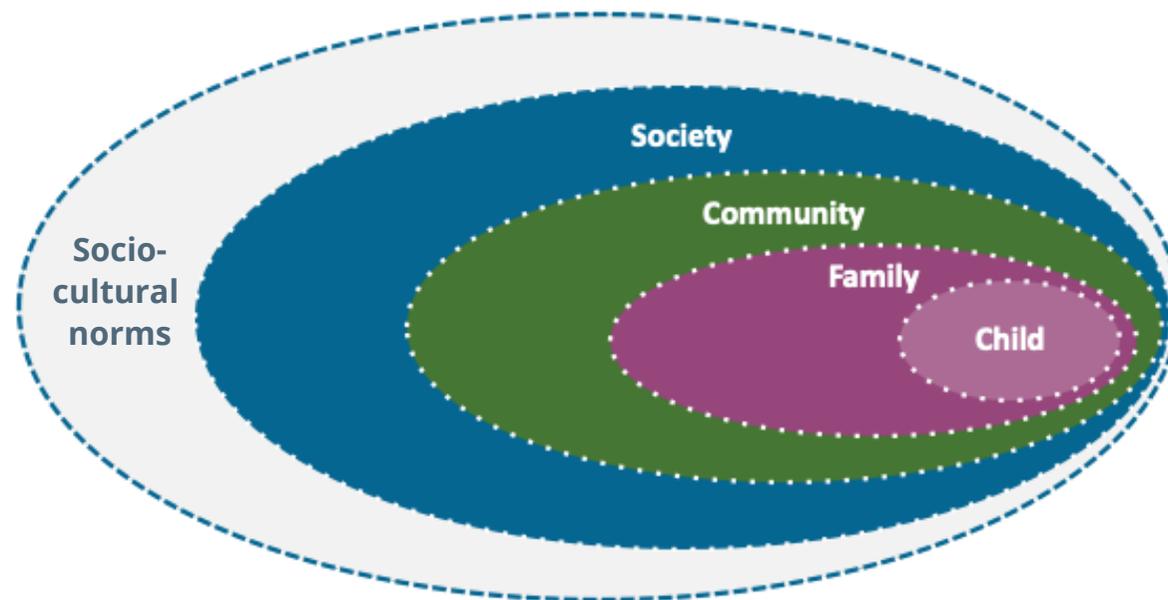
As the COVID-19 situation evolves from one stage to the next, so do the effects on children. From preparedness to recovery, **the virus affects children via three primary pathways:**

- Through infection with the virus itself
- Through social and economic impacts of the response and recovery
- Through longer term effects including economic downturn and delay in SDGs

2.

What are the main child risk and protective factors emerging during COVID-19?

It is important to **consider the broader socio-ecological environment** of the child and the associated risks and response measures within and between each layer.



- **Risk factors** are generally defined as individual traits, experiences, or environmental factors that increase the probability of a negative outcome.
- **Protective factors** balance and buffer risk factors and reduce a child's vulnerability. They lower the probability of an undesirable outcome.

2.

What are the main child risk and protective factors emerging during COVID-19?

	Risk factors	Protective factors
Child	Heightened risk of violence, neglect, exploitation & psychosocial distress	Communication with friends & family; knowledge of COVID-19 facts
Family	Seperation, disrupted livelihoods, fear of disease, gender inequality	Family time & activities; fathers more involved; new rituals / routines
Community	Breakdown of trust; limited access for community supports, play spaces, etc.	Food banks, cash transfers, neighborhood check-ins
Society	Erosion of social capital; disruption of civil society	Essential government services; supports from CSOs
Socio-cultural norms	Heightened stigma & discrimination against specific groups	Highlighting heroes (e.g. front-line workers), intergenerational respect & care

3. What are the guiding principles for child protection responses during a disease outbreak?

1. Prioritise **the best interests of the child** and **children's voices** through all stages.
2. Apply the principle of **non-discrimination and inclusion** to all stages of COVID-19.
3. Build **continuity of care and protection** in all stages of the crisis.
4. Engage governments to develop innovative **child-focused legal and policy frameworks** to protect all children.
5. **Engage communities** to guide the child protection response.
6. Adapt and strengthen **child protection systems** – both formal and informal.
7. **Document and measure progress** to assess the success of responses to child protection issues.
8. Build on **protective factors** while addressing **risk factors**.

4.

What other considerations should be included in a COVID-19 response strategy?

Practitioners and policy makers must develop responses **using a multi-sectoral lens** that examines **children's, caregiver's and communities' needs.**

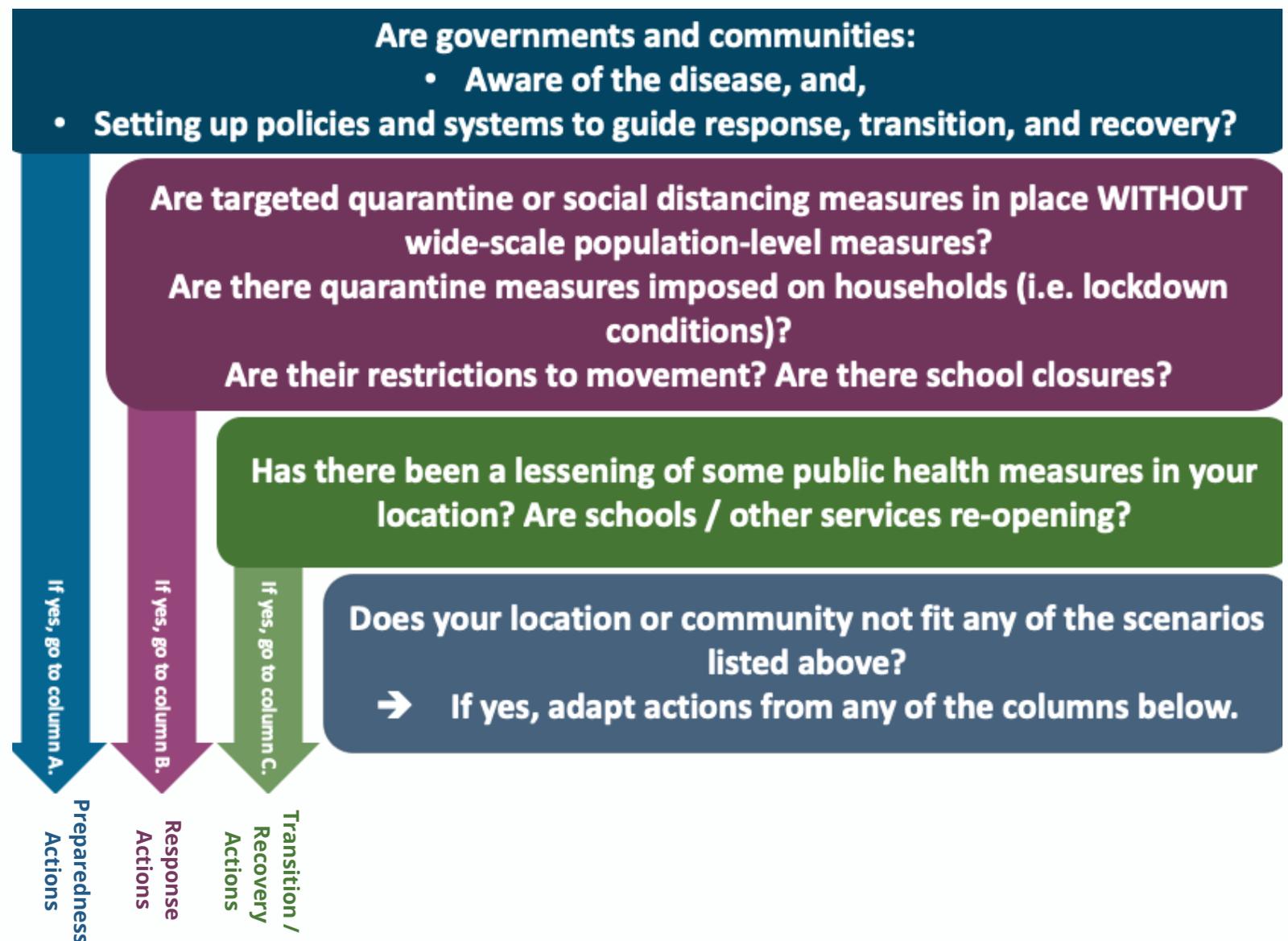
Critical sectors include:

- **Education**
- **WASH**
- **Nutrition**
- **Health**
- **Shelter**
- **Livelihoods**
- **Food security**
- **Camp management**



5. How do we put all of these things into practice?

Start with the series of basic questions below* to **determine which stage you are in.**



Create (and regularly review) an action plan(s) **taking into account the local context and guided by the CPMS.**

*The full Technical Note provides a series of additional probes under each question to help you think through appropriate response measures for your context.

6. Where can I find additional guidance on child protection during COVID-19?

Visit **The Alliance's COVID-19 Resource Hub** to access a variety of supporting materials and guidance, including **supplemental annexes to the Technical Note** on:

- **Adaptation of Child Protection Case Management to the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Child Helplines and the Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Key Messages and Considerations for Programming for Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups**
- **Working with Communities to Keep Children Safe**
- **COVID-19 and Child Labour**
- **Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect in the Home**
- **Social Service Workforce Safety and Wellness during the COVID-19 Response: Recommended Actions**
- **Children and Alternative Care**
- **COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty**



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