



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2020 CONCEPT NOTE FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

Children's voice: maintaining and adapting for safe child participation during COVID-19

29 September 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 PM GVA

Participants will receive a Zoom link prior to the event.

Rationale/purpose

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, children and youth were facing unprecedented challenges caused by quarantine measures and school closure policies in nearly every country in the world. At the same time as these challenges emerged, child-focused organizations found it harder than ever to communicate with children, needing to adapt their methods of hearing children's voices and ensuring children's participation to virtual and "socially distanced" realities. These adaptations are seemingly harder for adults and their organizations than for children, who are creative, innovative, and tech-savvy. Children also understand challenges from a unique perspective and are keen to take initiative and work towards solutions. Despite the COVID-19 challenges, children have been taking the lead as activists - starting movements, organizing campaigns, founding organizations, and responding to crises. Coordination Groups should use this opportunity to acknowledge children's agency so we can begin to see children as partners in co-creating change.

Children's leadership and direction is the underlying inspiration for the 'Children as Partners in Child Protection during COVID-19 Guide'. The Guide is intended to assist humanitarian actors in child protection to maintain and strengthen children's meaningful participation in their work in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and in preparedness planning for moving forward during this pandemic and others. The Guide has been designed with an intentional focus on promoting children's participation and leadership throughout the programme cycle when Coordination Groups do not have the same access to children they had prior, such as through work in schools and other community settings.

The objectives of this webinar are to:

- Uncover what safe, meaningful child participation looks like during COVID-19;
- Disseminate strategies for working with children as partners, along with participatory tools that have been adapted for the COVID-19 context; and
- Present field experiences on meaningfully engaging children during COVID-19.

Expected Outcome

Participants will explore the ways children can be engaged as partners and leaders in child protection during the crisis. During the event, presenters will provide a brief overview of the tip sheets and tools that have been adapted for the COVID-19 context and explain how the tip sheets can help a Coordination Group proceed through the process of becoming a more active partner to children. Each tool references the various stages of the program life cycle it can be adapted for. The tools support adults to engage children meaningfully and foster a shift from participation to working with children as partners. To further learning, colleagues from two organizations will share their experiences on meaningfully engaging children in their initiatives.



Format/Content of the Event

The format of the event will consist of an overview of the tools, presentation of field experiences, and a question and answer session. The event will be live-streamed via Zoom in English at 3:00PM GVA/9:00AM EST. Participants will receive a Zoom link prior to the event.

Speakers/Moderators

Welcome and introduction by the moderators:

Michael Copland, Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) Coordinator

Mark Canavera, Co-Director, Care and Protection of Children Learning Network

Overview of the tips & tools:

Vanessa Currie, Executive Director, International Institute for Child Rights and Development

Laura Wright, Director, Participatory Methodologies, International Institute for Child Rights and Development

Presentation of field experiences:

Joel Bergner, CEO and Co-Founder, Artolution

Kristen Hope Burchill, Research and Advocacy Advisor, Terre des Hommes

Young people, #CovidUnder19 Survey

Q&A:

Participants may submit questions in advance to Lauren Bienkowski at lbienkowski@unicef.org or during the event via the Q&A function.

Closing Remarks:

Mark Canavera, Co-Director, Care and Protection of Children Learning Network

Pre-event questions / survey to be shared with participants

Participants can submit questions in advance to lbienkowski@unicef.org.

Background Reading

Moving Towards Children as Partners in Child Protection in COVID-19 Guide, From Participation to Partnerships

[Annotated bibliography](#) accompanying the Guide