

# CHILDREN AND COVID-19 ADVOCACY BRIEFS

## Prioritise children – from response to recovery



#COVIDchildren #PutChildrenFirst #DoNoHarm #LeaveNoOneBehind



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## Motivation

Children have mostly been spared from severe infection, yet government's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, and the associated lockdown and economic recession have deepened levels of **poverty and hunger**, intensified pressures and the threat of **violence** within the home, and limited women and children's access to schools, health care, early childhood development and social services.

Children are particularly vulnerable to both the **immediate shock and enduring impacts** of COVID-19: This is especially the case during sensitive and rapid periods of development such as the first 1,000 days of life and adolescence when exposure to hunger, violence and adversity can cause irreparable harm to children's immune systems, their developing brains and their education and employment prospects.

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## Purpose and scope

- This series of advocacy briefs calls on government to **put children at the heart of our COVID-19 response** and recovery plans.
- They document the **impact** of the pandemic on children and children's services, and identify **opportunities** to strengthen systems, improve outcomes and better support children in future waves and crises.
- They draw on administrative data from the **Western Cape**, as even in this relatively well-resourced province, children's needs were initially overlooked.

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Seven  
domains



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