

Children, a priority during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected children in different ways, mainly in their basic and fundamental rights

COVID-19 infringed the rights of children, such as education, healthy food, access to health, right to play and have spare time, and living in a harmonious environment. For that reason, CMT offers integral solutions that provide benefits and support to this social sector.

It has been almost a year since the COVID-19 pandemic put the world in lockdown. Unfortunately, this situation is stressful for some sectors like children, who may have different reactions like: difficulty to sleep, stomachache, being upset or afraid all the time, just to mention some examples.

That is the reason why it is important to support children during this situation. This way, they could understand that it is normal to be afraid or worried these days, and the most important thing is that they will know that this situation is temporary.

The UNICEF mentions that:

- COVID-19 affected severely the context children live into.
- The quarantine recommendations like closing schools and the restrictions in mobility broke the routines and the children's social support.
- Stigmatization and discrimination related to COVID-19 may increase vulnerability to violence and psychosocial distress in children and teenagers.
- Children and families that became vulnerable due to their situation related to socioeconomic exclusion or those who live in overcrowded environments may have more risks.

Children in lockdown have more risks regarding protection issues, as they face risks that may affect their personal, educational, and social development. In the meantime, inequalities between the population also increased.

Risks for children and teenagers during the lockdown



- Physical and emotional abuse
- Poisoning, as well as dangers and risks of injuries for children



- Gender-based violence
 - Child exploitation in sexual and labor contexts
 - Psycho-social stress and mental disorders



- Social exclusion
 - Malnutrition
 - Deficits on their educational development

It is clear that nobody was ready for a voluntary lockdown, especially children. They have big capacities to adapt to several circumstances so, it is likely that they will not suffer from serious consequences. However, children who are emotionally unstable may suffer from strong anxiety reactions, regressing behaviors like: whining, attachments, regressions in the way they speak, bed-wetting, and even headaches or symptoms that may be related to negative emotions.

DATA

In Mexico, classes were suspended on March 20 in all the educational levels due to the spread of COVID-19. Lockdown has affected more than 39.9 million children and teenagers; that is to say, 32.8% of the total population according to data provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Therefore, basic rights like: education, healthy food, access to health services, the right to play and have spare time, and living in a harmonious environment, are some of the rights that were affected during this pandemic. Then, it is a responsibility for the governments, families, and civil society to respect those rights in order to guarantee welfare and development for children.



Program of Supportive Contribution to Technology

- Solutions were implemented to improve the access to new technologies to benefit children, teenagers and teachers during the pandemic.
- Through subsidies, it was possible to provide technology, telephone and internet facilities to allow children to continue their studies.

Since this pandemic started, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) focused their actions on safeguarding and protecting the fundamental rights of children and teenagers, such as: food, housing, health, and education. Due to that, it was possible to assist people in vulnerable situations, specifically to minors all over Mexico.

Hence, several integral solutions were implemented so as to provide attention to this sector of the population. All these actions may be found in the 11 networks underneath the CMT Welfare Ecosystem.

CMT Solutions

Network for Education



Through this network it is possible to offer solutions for students, teachers, and parents

- Equipment for restrooms
- Construction materials
- Computers
- Equipment for laboratories, sports, and libraries
- Furnitures for classrooms
- School supplies
- School uniforms, shoes, tennis shoes, and backpacks
- Didactic materials
- School insurance policies
- Educational platforms for distance learning

Network for Food



Different sets of integral solutions are given to offer quality food and to allow families to produce their own food.

- School dining rooms
- Dairy od CMT Centers
- Milk formula
- Community stores to sell supplies

Network for Housing



Its objective is to have an impact on housing to benefit children, so they have the opportunity of living in a decent house.

- Additional rooms
- Firm floors
- Sets of construction materials
- Concrete roofs
- Home improvement

Network for Art, Culture, Sports, and Youth



Integral solutions are offered to build, improve, and also buy equipment for cultural, artistic, or sports centers.

- Artistic centers and cultural centers
- Courts and/or sports areas
- Sports clothes and tennis shoes
- Musical Instruments: wind, percussion instruments, pianos, etc.
- Improvement on facilities; artistic, cultural, and sports centers

This way, CMT offers different actions to guarantee and enhance the fundamental rights of children by implementing programs and actions that focus on improving the life quality of minors and their families.



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