



Sector Recommendations – Round Table 2: Multi-sector Humanitarian Actors

Summaries from Education, Health and Child Protection actors
from sector-specific meetings.

Preventing negative impacts to children's protection, health, well-being, and education during infectious disease outbreaks

<p>Education Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure schools stay open—safely—or can re-open as quickly as possible • Learn from and profile examples of promising practices • If schools have to close, work with families and caregivers to ensure protection at home • Identify root causes (pre-outbreak) and areas where systems need strengthening • Prepare teachers and schools before an outbreak • Design high-quality flexible educational programs that can be adapted to big shocks like pandemics
<p>Health Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand decision-making processes in each setting to support child-centered decision-making • Share a 'recommendation package' with policymakers to keep schools open safely or to facilitate re-opening e.g., handwashing stations • Collaborate with education and other sectors to ensure that Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures in schools are a core component of education in emergencies and outbreak prevention • Involve students and their families in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)
<p>Child Protection Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify children who have heightened vulnerability and connect them to services • Ensure that the social service and front line child protection workers are trained to identify and support children • Invest in Anticipatory Action with child protection—anticipate what is needed to protect children's well-being • Invest in and plan for MHPSS provision for children, caregivers, and community members • Enhance cross-sectoral coordination to mitigate long term impacts of school closures • Invest in community strengthening programs—identify community coping mechanisms and enhance or strengthen them

Meaningfully engaging children in decision-making on school closing/opening during infectious disease outbreaks and in addressing impacts of COVID-19

<p>Education Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage existing children’s groups and clubs • Identify and address barriers to meaningful engagement in decision-making for children, teachers, and caregivers • Integrate child-participatory/child-friendly approaches and consultations in health-related needs assessments • Provide evidence to decision-makers on the importance of engaging children • Consider children as experts—listen to children's views and ensure that they are a part of the decision-making processes
<p>Health Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage children and families in planning, preparedness, and decision-making processes, including regarding school closure • Conduct a mapping of existing children’s groups and engage these groups in preparedness and prevention activities • Prioritise early and regular engagement in initial phases of outbreaks and throughout and after outbreaks • Ensure accountability—do not only take children's views but provide opportunity for bi-directional exchanges • Engage children in needs assessment and identifying risks
<p>Child Protection Sector Outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity of child-led networks/groups and community groups that work with children and engage them in outbreak preparedness • Respect children's voices and engage them in strategic planning to improve outbreak response • Profile participatory, collaborative, multi-sectoral, and/or locally-led approaches employed with children • Work with children to create concise, clear, and accurate communication materials before, during, and after an infectious disease outbreak • Ensure representation of children who were disproportionately affected

Ensuring equity, accessibility, and continuity of learning for all children in safe, healthy, and protective environments during infectious disease outbreaks

Education Sector Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the barriers that exist for different groups of children • Engage across sectors, particularly with health • Strengthen multisectoral interventions to address the different barriers to access education (e.g., socio-economic, safety, capability, etc.)
Health Sector Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on lessons learned to ensure children’s access to education • Work across sectors to make health and MHPSS services accessible and inclusive of ALL children and young people • Ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in both health and education • Seek opportunities to talk with children, to inquire about their access to education, and to connect children to necessary services
Child Protection Sector Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that diverse groups of children and young people are informing decision-making, ahead of an outbreak • Address compounding issues impacting children’s well-being and learning, such as food insecurity • Develop a framework with Child Protection, Education, Health, and other sectors to guide child engagement during an outbreak • Invest in locally driven and nationally accountable leadership • Invest in accessible and inexpensive digital education and self-directed learning materials

This Round Table was carried out as part of a series of discussions that aim to move evidence—from a three-country study exploring the impact of COVID-19 related school closures on children’s protection, well-being, and educational inequalities—toward action. The research reports, advocacy briefs can be [accessed here](#), as well as the Round Table overview and the Children’s and Young People’s Key Messages from Round Table 1.