

Problems with education around the world during Covid-19



Years Don't Wait for Them.

**Increased Inequalities in the Right to Education
Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic**



HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

About us

We are called Human Rights Watch.

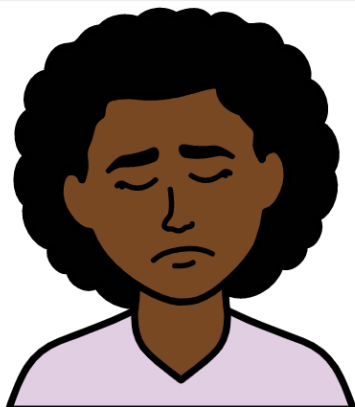


We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

About this report

This report is about education for children in 2020 and 2021 during Covid-19.

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world have been getting.



This report is about problems that children around the world are having with their education.



From April 2020 to April 2021 we spoke to people in many different countries.

We spoke to children, parents and teachers.

We found out what education has been like during Covid-19.

What we found out about education during Covid-19



Education is very important.

Children need a good education to help them do well when they are older.



But there have been many problems with education during Covid-19.

Some problems were already there before Covid-19.

But Covid-19 has made them worse.



Schools closing



Most schools in the world closed in 2020 because of Covid-19.

Some schools opened again later on.

Or they opened for a bit.

But some schools have not opened again.



Children getting less education or no education at all

Most children in the world have had some problems with their education during Covid-19.

For example:



Some countries did not give children any education while schools were closed.



Some children stopped getting an education after their schools closed.

For example:

Some children started working or got married.

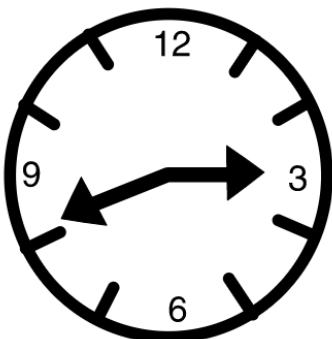
Some children might be forced to work or get married if they are not in school.



Some children got too old for free education in their countries.



Some girls had to help their families at home more during Covid-19. This meant they could not learn.



Many children got a worse education when schools closed during Covid-19.

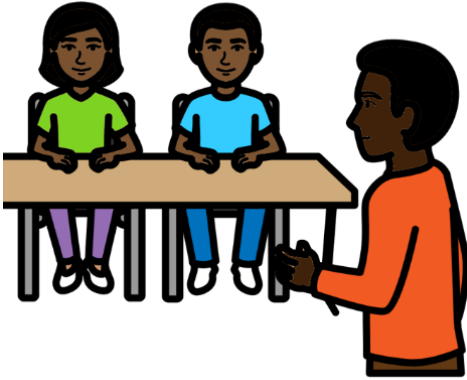
For example:

Many children spent less time learning every week.



Many children spent less time with their teachers and children from their class.

This made some children lonely and sad.



Some children stopped getting their usual support from school.

Like free meals or special support to learn.



Problems learning from home

Many children had to learn in different ways when schools closed.



For example, they had to learn at home using the radio, TV, internet or phone.



Some teachers paid for the internet and other things to make sure children could still learn.

And many children tried really hard to keep learning.



But many children could not take part and were left out.

This includes children that already found it hard to go to school.



For example:

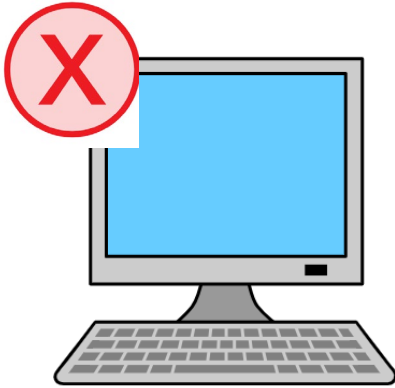
- Many children who are poor
- Many children with disabilities
- Many girls
- Many children who live away from towns and cities

Many of these children found it harder to learn during Covid-19.

For example:

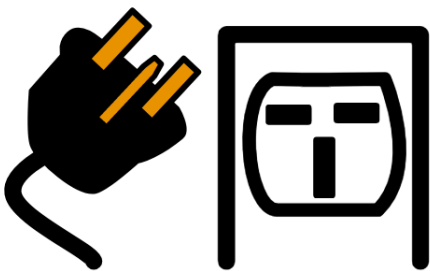
Many schools used the internet to teach children.

But many children did not have computers, phones or the internet.



There might be problems with the internet.

It might cost too much. Or it might not work very well.



Some people did not have enough electricity to use the internet.

This is because of electricity problems in the country.

Many children with disabilities might find it hard to learn on the internet.



For example, children who use sign language might find it hard to see sign language on a small screen.

Many children will start going back to school.

But they might find it hard because of the education they lost.

What should be happening

All children have a right to education.

Countries have promised to make sure that all children can get a good education by the year 2030.



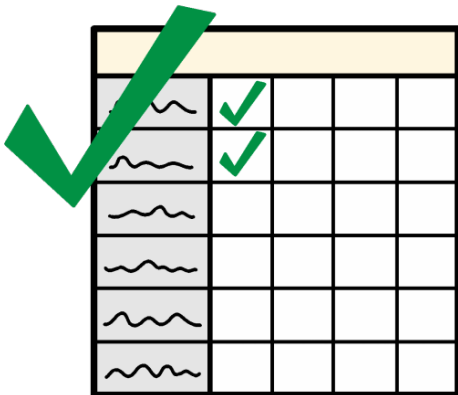
What we want to happen next



Countries must work hard to make sure that all children get a good education.

They must solve education problems that happened because of Covid-19.

And education problems that were there before Covid-19.



The things below are for governments in the world to do:



Only close schools if there is a real need to close them.

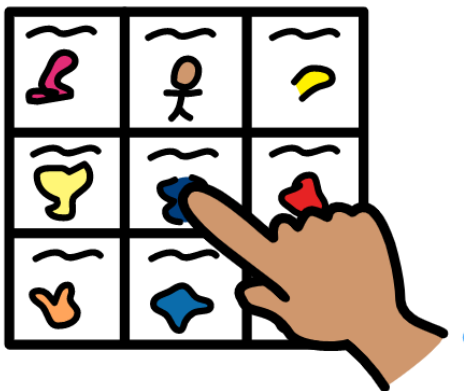
Make sure that all children can keep learning if schools close.



Use many different ways to teach children if schools close.

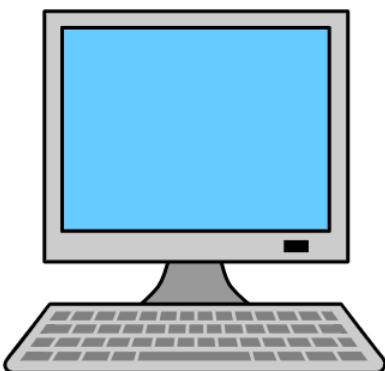
For example,

- Radio and TV
- Computers and phones
- Paper documents and books



Make sure that children with disabilities can learn in the best way for them.

Teachers need to make sure that children with disabilities get the right support and information to take part.



Make sure that children can get computers and the internet to learn at home.

The internet should work well.

It should not cost too much.



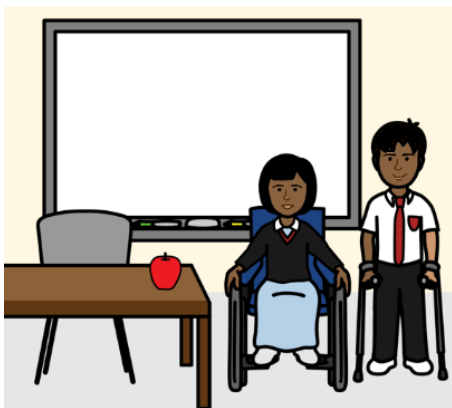
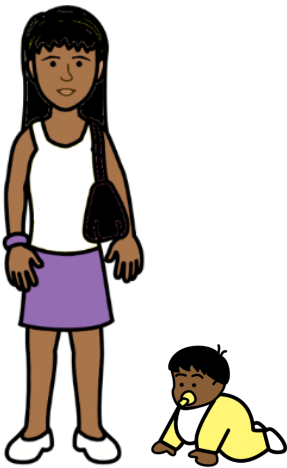
Make a plan to open schools again in a safe way.

Make sure that all children can come back to school.

This includes children who might find it harder to go to school.

For example:

- Girls who are pregnant
- Children who are married or looking after children
- Children who are poor
- Children who had to work during Covid-19 to help their families
- Children who have a disability or health condition



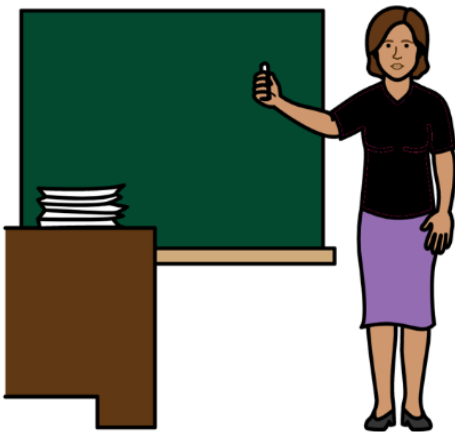
Make sure schools do not charge extra money for children to come back.

Make sure children and parents know about their rights.



Some children had to leave school during Covid-19 because they got too old for free education.

They should have extra years of free education to fix what they lost.



Make sure all children can catch up with the education they lost.

Pay teachers and school staff for extra time they work to help children catch up.



Make sure children and school staff get everything they need to stay safe from Covid-19.

Like vaccines, face masks and tests to see if they have Covid-19.



Governments should make sure that there is enough money for good education for all children.