



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

unicef 
for every child

COVID-19 and Children deprived of their liberty

Inter-Agency Technical Note

Vijaya Ratnam-Raman | UNICEF HQ

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Development process

- UNICEF convened an inter-agency taskforce
- Emerging guidance from UN (WHO/OHCHR *et. al.*) and from CSOs (PRI, ILF, TDH *et. Al.*)
- **Technical Note: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

States, in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, must **respect, protect and fulfill** the **human rights** of every child who is deprived of her or his liberty.



Key asks

01.

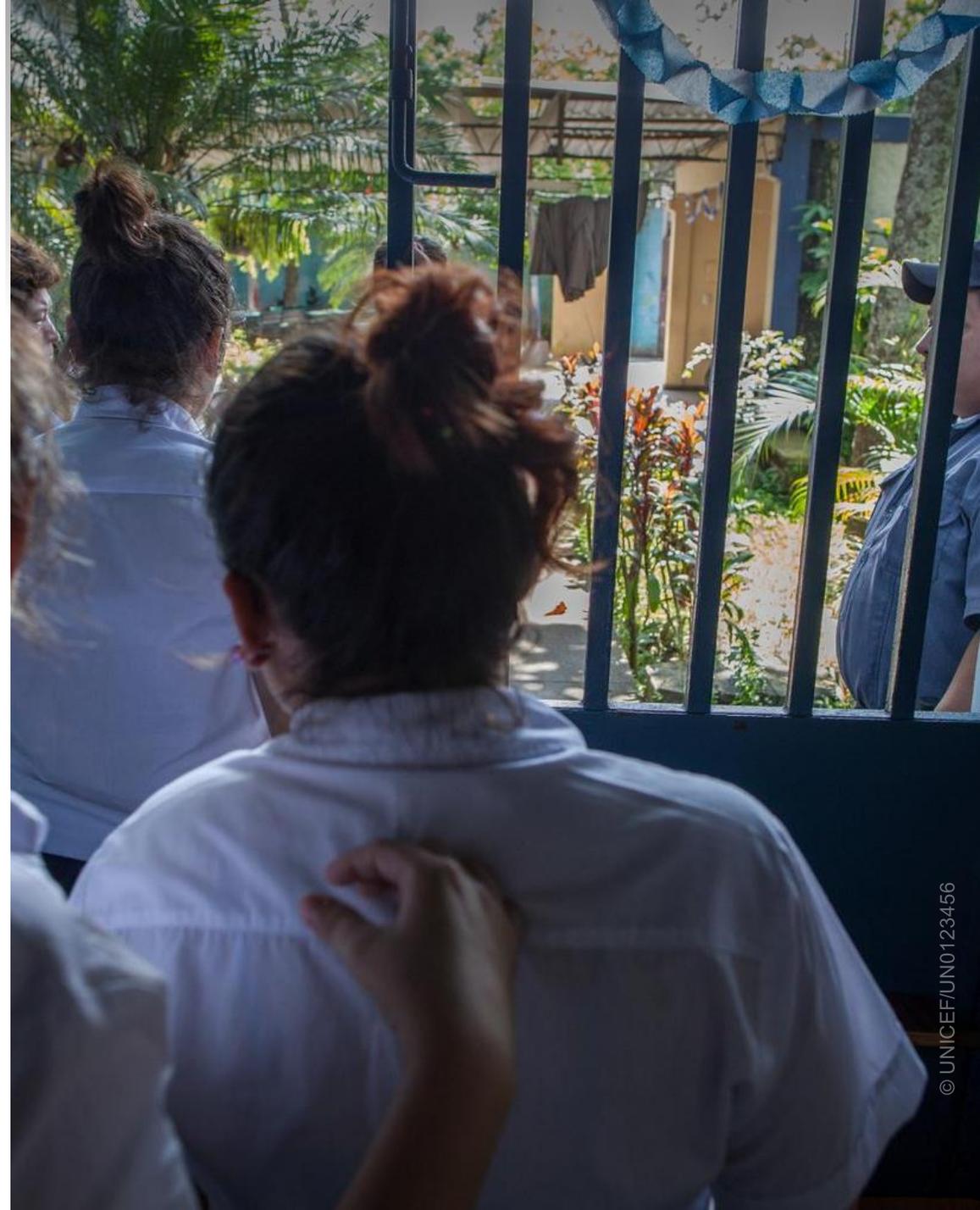
Instituting a moratorium on new children entering detention facilities.

02.

Releasing all children who can be safely released.

03.

Protecting the health and well-being of any children who must remain in detention.



3 sections

01.

Use of deprivation of liberty and emergency measures during COVID-19.

02.

Urgent release, use of alternative measures, and no new entries of children into detention during the COVID-19.

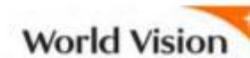
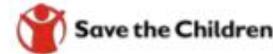
03.

Steps key justice actors can take to achieve 01 and 02.



Inter-agency endorsement

Endorsed by:



Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Libertyⁱ



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Introduction

Experience from previous infectious disease outbreaks indicates that new child protection risks are likely to emerge from the direct effects of COVID-19 as well as from measures to prevent and control its spread. Moreover, existing child protection risks are likely to be exacerbated. Some groups of people are more vulnerable in these circumstances, including, as discussed in this note, children deprived of their liberty, who often have compromised psychosocial, physical and mental health issues, live in crowded or unhygienic conditions and are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

To access the Technical Note click [HERE](#).

A young boy with dark skin and short hair is looking through the vertical metal bars of a prison cell. He has a serious expression. The cell is dimly lit, and other people are partially visible behind him. The right side of the image is overlaid with a blue gradient containing white text.

Contact

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