

THE CHILDREN'S CONCERNS IN LAW: ADOPTING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR GLOBAL RECONSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

This paper aims to explain why it is necessary for requisite bodies to be guided by overarching principles that rely on objective data, measures and various precedents. As at March 2020, over 50 (fifty) prominent organizations on the universal database were responding to the impact of Covid-19 on children. Without a strategic plan for global reconstruction and accountability, these bodies run the risk of being overwhelmed. This paper is qualitative; it examines contents and laws of both local and international authorities, then attempts to describe what a child related strategy for Covid-19 Pandemic entails. The initial activities should be at least to eradicate channels through which children get infected and die of the virus. The second is to reduce the negative socio economic effects of the virus and then the last process of streamlining current measures with existing efforts on Sustainable Development Goals. This last procedure covers activities that can accelerate the realization of the SDG 2030, despite the pandemic. That is where actions are subject to contemporary notions for inclusive development, equitable humanitarian intervention plans, and respect for the rights of children. At this period special attention should be on the impact of the Pandemic on vulnerable persons and low income nations.

Keywords: Children; Covid-19; Law; Global; Pandemic; Reconstruction.

A. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization reports that although children still record low level of infection, Covid-19 is presently altering their lives, especially the impoverished, to a catastrophic extent.¹ This fact is corroborated by other requisite multilaterals including, the UNESCO, UNICEF, and OCHA among others. Accordingly, children are in the front burner and they represent the part of the populace that is and would be most affected by the pandemic in the long run. So far interventions have been in form of high profile collaborations, requests for funds and supply of aids. For example, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimates that in a worst case scenario, Covid-19 could take 3.3million lives across Africa².The body therefore calls for a \$200 billion package to tackle

1 *How Covid 19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, retrieved from www.unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles. on 24/5/2020, page.54

2 *Covid-19:UNECA Report Predicts Devastating Worst Case Scenario*, Africa Business Magazine,15 April 2020 at www.africanbusinessmagazine.com

the health and economic crisis in the continent. As at 25th March 2020, the UN Secretary-General launched the Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan with a request of US\$2 billion. In the same light as at 30th March 2020, the OCHA and CERF have pooled over US\$78.3 million to kick start anti-covid-19 schedules.

The increase in casualty, destabilization of existing child survival regiments and high rate of transmission has ensured continuous need for fresh initiatives. The fear is that, the interferences and deprivations that are resulting from Covid-19 would have irreparable impact on the world's children, if not catered for along the line. For example, while original campaigns are towards the use of social distancing and permanent lock down of schedules, reports have shown that matters that bother on children cannot be entirely locked down. WHO has reiterated that³;

Many children, especially those in the poorest households and the poorest parts of the world, risk losing their lives to pneumonia, diarrhea diseases, malaria, HIV and other preventable diseases unless urgent action is taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For instance, any further disruptions to immunization services will result in more children dying from pneumonia, which already kills around 800,000 children under the age of five every year – about 2,200 per day.

In addition, the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan(2020)⁴ isolates main obstacles to implementing responses to include issues on border closures; import/export and port restrictions; fuel and commodity price fluctuations; reduced commercial aviation and shipping operations; extent of ongoing global demand and shortages. Meanwhile, according to the OECD Policy Response to Coronal Virus (Covid-19)(2020)⁵, other problems bother on; financial and operational limits, reductions in mobility, availability and capacity of staff/stakeholders; how to ensure that the immediate response to COVID-19 also takes into account pre-existing challenges about the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, child labour among others.

As several efforts progress to tackle the impact of the pandemic, no country has been spared and based on existing inter-dependence of states; none has been able to resolve the problem alone.⁶Global powers, have described the crisis as a precursor towards global unity, solidarity, clear thoughts and actions.⁷ As such, the prominent plan is the usual commitment to give aids and support, especially to developing and middle income countries. However, popular recipients, especially Africa, insist that Covid-19

3 *How Covid 19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, retrieved from www.unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles. on 24/5/2020, page.54

4 *Innovation-Development and Covid-19 Challenges Opportunities and Ways Forward*, 1st December 2020, at www.unocha.org retrieved on December 2, 2021

5 *Coronavirus Policy Responses, Innovation Development and Covid-19, Challenges Opportunities and Ways-Forward* at www.oecd.org retrieved September 14, 2021

6 *German chancellor, Angela Merkel response to WHO's Covid-19 objectives on global Unity*, 73rd World health Assembly 19 May, 2020

7 *South African and French President's response to WHO's Covid-19 objectives on global Unity*, 73rd World health Assembly 19 May, 2020

is not a global equalizer; instead, it is currently trending as a *force majeure* that has dangerously highlighted the growing inequality among and within nations⁸. Also, multinationals presently run the risk of being pressurized into limitless and wasteful concerns. From past experience, when panic interventions are secured, incidental shortcomings ensure that they eventually do not achieve desired goals.

To attempt old things in new ways and evade previous incapacitations, this study observes that, the massive nature of Covid-19 emergencies on children would require interventions that are more calculating and designed differently from previous mandates. In this regard, global societies may draw a clear and strategic vision for requisite stakeholders.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This Research was a qualitative analysis of primary and secondary sources of Law. The primary sources as examined include both local and international regulations on the protection of Children, especially during emergencies. The secondary sources presented include, internet materials, Articles, Books and other research data, especially quantitative studies on Covid-19 and its impact on children. This study examined the theory of reconstruction through the various stages to rebuild a world after loss. This study revisited existing and current plans, action briefs and policy reports from humanitarian, human rights, multinational, governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. Other concerns were on the role of Law in the arrangement of requisite Reconstruction themes.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Building a Strategic Vision for Global Reconstruction and Accountability

Theodore Brameld (1904-1987)⁹ founded Social Reconstructionism as a response to the horrors of WWII. Apart from this fact, the theories on Reconstruction have been mostly used among researchers in the field of education, social change and death Studies. Foremost perspectives on social reconstruction are also as propounded by Mahatma Gandhi¹⁰ in his divine proposals against the root causes of social dysfunctions. Although perceived as obsolete and inadequate in the present era, Gandhi. M (1869-1948), proposes the instrumentality of non violence, morality, purity, equality, equity and education of individuals as the primary influence of societal change. Other researchers¹¹ are concerned about

8 *South African President's response to WHO's Covid-19 objectives on global Unity*, 73rd World health Assembly 19 May, 2020

9 Guthrie, James W., ed. Brameld, Theodore (1904-1987)., *Encyclopedia of Education, Macmillan Reference USA*, Vol 1. 2nd ed. New York, 2003

10 Avinash K.((2017), *Social Reconstruction and Gandhian Philosophy*, *International Journal of Academic research and Development*, Vol.2, Issue.5, page.294-297

11 Peter Buckland, *Reshaping the Future: Education and Post Conflict Reconstruction*, Washington. DC, World Bank at www.documents.worldbank.org, 2004; also Karen Lea

the role of education in social reconstruction and the methods and forms through which education may be utilized to inculcate social values in individuals, who would influence social change. The focus of social reconstruction is hence to achieve social justice by conceiving a vision of a good society through which the good man, good education, truth and knowledge would be derived. For example Giroux¹² examined the links between education, civic engagement, and social justice in the pedagogy that challenges inequality, oppression and fundamentalism.

The other approach to Reconstruction is on the trend of recovery after bereavement. According to Robert A. Neimeyer 2006¹³, constructivist theory represents the capacity to make sense of a loss, find benefit in the experience, and reconstruct a progressive sense of identity after the bereavement.

This work identifies the resemblance in previous works. However, it utilizes the concept beyond the quest for social change and justice or capacity to make meaning out of bereavements. Rather the paper adopts a literal conception of the term "Reconstruction" as a process for social recovery, stability and repair. As such, a theory of reconstruction¹⁴ would apply where the overarching plan is to rebuild a previous system of social interactions that has collapsed as a result of some mishap, distrust, inequality, injustices or wastage.

Where a project is set to repair due to the effects of a global pandemic, the quest may be to reassess and refurbish existing agenda. More importantly entities should be accountable and equitable. A strategic vision or plan provides an overview of what a person, organization or institution wants to achieve at a specific time in the future¹⁵. The vision may be short or long term depending on the nature and type of project involved. Such may present ideal, but achievable outcome, and it is the package that presents all overarching principles for all processes till the mission is accomplished. An example, of a strategic plan at States' level was the Denmark's humanitarian strategy 2010-15¹⁶ which reveals the country's intents on migration, conflicts and displacements especially in the Middle East and Africa. The 2010-2015 documents identified the barriers to achieving plans to include issues on;

- a. Stretched resources at requisite levels,

Riley, Social Reconstruction: People, Politics, Perspectives; *Studies in the History of Education*, 1AP 2006,

- 12 Giroux, H., Cultural Studies, Public Pedagogy, and the Responsibility of Intellectuals, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, Vol.1, 2004, page.59-79
- 13 Niemeyer, R. Continuing Bonds and Reconstructing meaning: Mitigating Complications in Bereavement, *Death Studies*, *JOUR*, Vol.30, 2006
- 14 *Education and Social Reconstructionism*, Florida State College at Jacksonville, FSCJ, at www.guides.fscj.edu.com, accessed may 29, 2020
- 15 Don Hofstrand, *Vision and Mission statements—a Roadmap of Where You want to Go and How to Get There*, IOWA State University Extension and Outreach at www.extension.iastate.edu, 2016
- 16 *Evaluation of the strategy for Danish humanitarian action 2010-2015: Synthesis report*, ministry of foreign affairs of Denmark, Danida International Development Cooperation, May 2015 page.15

- b. the extent to which monitoring institutions are responsible for following up on humanitarian activities
- c. the joint responsibility by state holders for the interventions
- d. the lack of adequate humanitarian expertise at monitoring level

The Danish documents equally emphasized a need for synergy at a pragmatic level. The outreach focuses on the most vulnerable people in crisis situations by; meeting their immediate recovery needs; promoting disaster risk reduction and supporting resilience and early recovery efforts. Denmark's strategic directions equally focused on;

- a. Vulnerability: women's empowerment, risk reduction, emergency preparedness and early recovery.
- b. Co-ordinated, principled and informed humanitarian action.
- c. Strengthening partnerships: partnership framework agreements; increased division of labour between humanitarian donors; increased Danish field-level capacity.
- d. Focus on results, innovation and communication: focus on impact and accountability to beneficiaries; promotion of innovation and best practices, and regular communication of results¹⁷.

The above document establishes the fact that to become accountable, states and intervening institutions on children during Covid-19, no matter how varying should reach cogent ideological consensus on set goals by isolating concerns and identifying barriers to achieving them.

Due to the massive and political undertones on Covid-19, several programs lunched headlong without coherence or collaborations might encounter typical failures. Therefore, it is germane to emphasize the unprecedented population of humanitarian organizations, with calls for loans and funds vis a vis their capacity to cater for every child. The benefits of strategizing in this regard are that;

- a. The overarching plan would be to rebuild a global system of child care and protection despite the impact of existing pandemic, distrusts, inequality, injustices or wastage.
- b. Available resources would not be unduly stretched when they have not reached relevant earmarked levels,
- c. Monitoring institutions responsible for follow up on children welfare during humanitarian activities would be reactivated
- d. There would be more reasons for stake holder to be jointly responsible for the interventions
- e. Such synergy would inform more co-ordinated, principled and informed humanitarian actions
- f. There would be focus on results, innovation, best practices, and regular communication of results due to existing high level checks and balances¹⁸.

17 *Towards Better Humanitarian Donorship, 12 lessons from DAC Peer Review*, Denmark, 2011, page.10 at www.oecd.org

A review of the United Nations in its Global Humanitarian Response plan(2020)¹⁹ on the other hand, emphasized other beneficial attitudes including; Respect for humanitarian principles; People-centered approach and inclusivity, Cultural sensitivity, and attention to the needs of different age groups (children, guardians, older people); Gender equality; Two-way engagement with local actors and community-based groups in the design and implementation stages; Appropriate technology; and means to account for mobility restrictions and social distancing among others.

On the nature of the agencies to be represented, capability guidelines of US Department for Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention(2018)²⁰ cites primary partners and stakeholders in public health emergencies to include agriculture agencies, emergency management agencies, emergency responders, environmental health agencies, environmental protection agencies, health care agencies, vaccination/immunization programs, incident safety officers, mental/behavioral health providers, occupational health subject matter experts, occupational safety and health agencies, public health agencies, responder representatives, social services, state radiation control programs, state epidemiology and communicable disease programs, veterinary public health programs, volunteer organizations among others.

The above precedents, local or international reveal that a strategic global plan against Covid-19 involves the co-ordination of multitude of complex entities. Presently, apart from the WHO and UNICEF, over 35 institutions²¹ would be involved in child related matters in Africa. With appropriate synergy, a strategic vision can bound these bodies. It is also the mandates transmitted by these organizations that would influence donors, private sectors, philanthropists, governmental bodies and other stake holders.

2. Relevant Indications for Covid-19 Interventions: Children's Concerns

Designing conceptual outlines to combat the epidemic and sustain an equitable recovery path afterwards, requires that multilateral and aids institutions observe relevant indications. According to the UNDP Global Human Development which can be measured as a combination of world's education, health and living standards, has gone on decline as a result of

18 *Towards Better Humanitarian Donorship, 12 lessons from DAC Peer Review*, Denmark, 2011, page.10 at www.oecd.org

19 *Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19*, www.unocha.org retrieved on December 2, 2021

20 *Public Health Preparedness and Response Capabilities*, www.cdc.gov retrieved December 2 2021

21 *How Covid 19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, retrieved from www.unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles. on 24 Mei 2020, page.1

Covid-19²². The pandemic has equally been described as a magnifying glass for inequalities as the drop in human development is expected to be much higher in developing countries that are less able to cope with social and economic fall outs. In setting up a global architecture, working organizations are to proceed from equitable baseline that puts the following realities into consideration;

- a. Many nations record less Covid-19 infection among children. However this is not the situation in all countries.²³ For example as at the 2nd of May 2020, among 631 *Almajiri* children at the temporary shelter in Kaduna, 55 children tested positive for COVID-19 while results for another 22 are pending²⁴.
- b. All affected nations present undesirable records of the impact of lockdown on children's developmental rights
- c. Although children have being described as more resilient to the infection, covid-19 affects them through lower family income, incessant school closure and also increase in abuse and exploitations as a result of lockdowns
- d. Most children in developing and middle income countries do not have access to internet/connectivity, locally developed and online curriculum and adequate professionals to transmit online education.²⁵ Some countries still experience epileptic and inadequate energy and electricity supply.
- e. More than two-thirds of countries have introduced a national distance learning platform, but among low-income countries the share is only 30 percent. Before this crisis, almost one third of the world's young people were already digitally excluded²⁶.
- f. Due to low records of infections among children, their vaccines are least available despite existing calls for vaccine equity at international levels

Most indications as identified above especially for children protection during the pandemic shows that while children are affected, those who previously suffer extreme socio-economical exclusions are more vulnerable. In the above instance, intervening institutions require equitable tendencies that provides specially for excluded children and their States. Especially low income countries may require specialized humanitarian interventions. For example, the United Nations Coordinated Appeal in its Global Humanitarian Response Plan (2020)²⁷ acknowledges,

22 Covid-19: Human Development On Course To Decline This Year For The First Time Since 1990, www.undp.org, retrieved on December 1, 2021

23 United Nations, *Policy Brief :The Impact of Covid-19 on Children*, 15th April 2020

24 NIGERIA:COVID 19.Situation and Overview of Humanitarian Needsm, UNICEF Situation Report – #07. Reporting Period: May 2nd -8th 2020 retrieved from www.unicef.org.

25 Dani Nhando, *3 key challenges of implementing e-learning in Africa*, October 30, 2015, www.elearningindustry.com.

26 United Nations, *Policy Brief: Impact of Covid-19 on Children*, 15 April 2020, page.2

27 *Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19*, www.unocha.org retrieved on December 2, 2021.

that due to the nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, all countries with an ongoing humanitarian response should be prioritized in Covid-19 response plans. This includes countries with an existing Humanitarian Response Plan or a Regional Refugee Plan (RRP). Also the Appeal realized the need for systematic monitoring of declines, to ensure that countries not prioritized in the first program for Global HRP are included if necessary. In the similar efforts, the United Nations in its policy brief 2019 has identified the specific channels through which Covid-19 affects children, as multiple in dimensions. They include; the tendency to fall into poverty²⁸, learning problems²⁹, survival and health problems³⁰ and safety³¹. The UN Policy therefore prioritized the main channel of impact as follows³²;

- a. The first channel being through infection with the virus.
- b. The second being through the socioeconomic effects of the virus and the measures being implemented to suppress transmission of the pandemic.
- c. The third channel is the risk that the virus and its response poses to the longer-term efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure the realization of the rights of all children

The three (3) channels indicates that, saving the lives of children from infections is priority. Accordingly, multilaterals may strive to establish scientific standards that would pre-empt and reduce Covid-19 death rate and level of transmission among children. The initial approach to this is the equitable distribution and sharing of children's vaccines among nations, notwithstanding the existing records of low infection. The next line of action is for states to find avenues to protect parents, guardians and their beneficiaries' social economic survival. After children are physically and socio-economically secured, requisite bodies may avail long term programs towards reversing the impact of the pandemic on other developmental issues as presented by the Sustainable development Goals 2030.

From political indications, equitable initiatives for global reconstruction (child focused) maybe guided by nations' domestic, independent and comprehensive evaluation of their own roadmaps. For developing countries, interventions would augment existing ingenious

28 An estimated 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis this year, adding to the estimated 386 million children already in extreme poverty in 2019.

29 188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures, affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth. The potential losses that may accrue in learning for today's young generation, and for the development of their human capital, are hard to fathom.

30 Economic hardship experienced by families as a result of the global economic downturn could result in hundreds of thousands of additional child deaths in 2020,

31 Lockdowns and shelter in place measures come with heightened risk of children witnessing or suffering violence and abuse. Children in conflict settings, as well as those living in unsanitary and crowded conditions such as refugee and IDP settlements, are also at considerable risk. Children's reliance on online platforms for distance learning has also increased their risk of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators

32 United Nations, *Policy Brief: Impact of Covid-19 on Children*, 16 April 2020 page.4-5

efforts that are child's need based. These depends on national economies, rate of infection, legislative frameworks, national allegiances, status of existing interventions, political structures, existing infrastructures, life expectancy and current security, socio- economic and cultural landscape. How nations react and improve may not correlate with the quantity of interventions, but rather on the substance of procedures that are designed after thorough assessment and understanding of critical values. Interventions may not distort, but they may augment existing plans for social and economic development.

3. Legal Schedules for Covid-19 Interventions on Children

Good governance and the rule of law are central to managing the COVID-19 crisis and promoting recovery in all countries."

Jan Beagle, IDLO Director-General

Generally, the rule of law entails the traditional process for initiating and sustaining agenda in Legal systems. According to the International Development Law Organization (2020)³³, the Rule of law among many other regiments cover issues on;

- a. On the overarching framework to ensure health, justice and inclusiveness in the midst of a pandemic like COVID-19.
- b. The law-making processes focused on public health emergencies and controlling infectious diseases as adjudicated through independent courts and tribunals that ensure the administration of law and its substantive content is consistent with international human rights standards.
- c. How all individuals, institutions and the State would be held accountable for just, fair and equitable application and protection of the law without discrimination.
- d. The process for ensuring that public health measures, such as lockdowns and other restrictions on movement and activities during outbreak of infectious diseases are enforced with community support without discrimination
- e. Understanding and palliating the implications of various restrictions on applicable individuals and communal rights.
- f. good governance by ensuring the fair and efficient operation of public institutions, social and legal infrastructure.

Nonetheless, existing mandates are prominent on issues relating to children. Typical provisions are that;

*States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision*³⁴.

33 *Vital Role of Law in the Covid 19 Response*, IDLO 2020, at www.idlo.int Retrieved November 3, 2021

34 Article 3(3) of *The Child's Rights Conventions 1989*

Also, the effects of international solidarity cannot be underestimated, as communities would have to rely on one another for solutions and global continuity. However a strategic agenda maybe designed with respect to 3 legal concerns; children's rights, inclusive development and humanitarian schedules:

- a. **Child's Rights:** Children's rights are interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. However, at this time, it is urgent to focus on the child's right to life and survival. Of which, required bodies may proceed to investigate the protracted impact of Covid-19 on children's socio-economic rights. Institutions may hence be guided by the prescriptions of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989. In this instance, the CRC 1989 is the first treaty to incorporate the civil, cultural, economic and social rights into children's concerns. As such, all institutions and governments that are obliged to the regime hold themselves as committed and responsible within the international community. The treaty spells out basic rules as regards children during special or general aids interventions as follows:

- 1) Best Interest principle-Article 3(1) of the treaty provides, that;

In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

- 2) Protection of Children's rights- The law presents children's rights in four categories to include the child's survival rights, developmental rights, their rights against discrimination and the rights to participation. Multi nationals may hence observe the Article 2(1) of the treaty which provides that,

States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

- 3) Assistance to parents, guardians or other persons who are responsible for the child- According to Article 3(2) of the treaty

States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

- 4) Accountability- Interventions may rely on feed backs based on previous reports from applicable jurisdictions. There is need to re-assess the political and economic situation of home countries to confirm whether there was and is an enabling environment for the

enforcement and promotion of these rights in the first instance.³⁵. This may influence the directions and expectations of aids organizations. By Article (44)2 of the CRA states are supposed to submit reports and be accountable;

Reports made under the present article shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the degree of fulfillment of the obligations under the present Convention. Reports shall also contain sufficient information to provide the Committee with a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the Convention in the country concerned.

- 5) Respect for children' views in decisions that affect them-Article 12
1. Of the CRC 1989 provides for the role the child is equally expected to play in all circumstances;

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

b. International Obligations towards inclusive Development:

According to the UNDP (2021), the impact of Covid-19 is multidimensional and it is set to widen the gap between people living in rich and poor countries. However, countries on the lower end of human development can exceed pre-COVID development trajectories, through a combination of bold policy choices and investments in governance, social protection, green economy and digitalization (an 'SDG Push')³⁶. For the purpose of this analysis, while all 17(seventeen) are interrelated, SDG 10, 16 and 17 are procedural to the manifestations of other ideals for children. In establishing plans for children during Covid-19, these 3 goals respectively proclaim;

- 1) **Goal 10:** economic and political Inclusion of all through equality and equitable laws, actions, policies and institutions among others. Specific targets are that by 2030 the world would by these actions; progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average; empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status; Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this

35 *Children's NGO Kids Rights draws on data from UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to compile the annual report. Presented on the website of the World's economic Forum, www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/covid19-kidsrights-children-rights-rankings-pandemic. retrieved 25 Mei 2020*

36 *Leaving No One Behind, Impact of Covid19 on Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, www.undp.org*

regard; Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality; Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations; Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions; Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies; Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements; Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in accordance with their national plans and programs; Reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

2) **Goal 16;** peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; access to justice, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Very important targets under this goal are; the need to promote the rule at the national and international levels; Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels; Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements; Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime; Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

3) **Goal 17:** the relevance of strong means for revitalizing and implementing global partnership for sustainable development

Global mandates on inclusion, equality, partnership and peace are relevant due to general assessments³⁷ that confirm that the pandemic has put a spotlight on the poor and most vulnerable people including children and young persons.

Varying needs entail that diverse interventions be more coherent. Assistance would hence be designed to suit peculiar needs and not necessarily universal drives. For example, a prominent concern is the inability to open schools due to Isolation schedules and the immediate or eventual impact of this situation

37 *High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals*, Tuesday, July 6, 2021

on children. International campaigns to substitute traditional learning for virtual methods have not displaced fears that an emergency distortion or frustration of traditional schooling tools and methods would have long term effects universal codes on education. This is despite the proactive plans to distribute virtual learning materials to poor households during the emergency³⁸. Facts have shown that in many of these communities previous interventions are still stuck on trying to empower parents and campaigns on the benefit of education. It is doubtful whether introducing sophisticated strategies where nations have not completed the tasks relating to the basics, would change the status quo of children who are behind. By the UN Policy Brief³⁹, virtual programs for learning and survival would not assist;

- a) Millions of children worldwide who live in slums, informal settlements and inadequate housing structures. More so, non-standard physical distancing and lockdown measures risk accelerating the spread of the pandemic among these populations, who often lack piped water and hand-washing facilities at home. They rely on communal sanitation facilities.
 - b) The world's 13 million child refugees, including those who reside in camps or crowded settlements.
 - c) Children with disabilities who depend most on face-to-face services—including health, education and protection
 - d) Children living in institutions and detention – including child migrants
 - e) Children living in places of active conflict
- 4) **Humanitarian values:** Principles of humanitarian actions are framed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of crisis⁴⁰. The priority is to provide prompt assistance to alleviate human suffering whether caused by natural and human made disasters.⁴¹ In demanding contexts, humanitarian donors must respond to a wide range of challenges in order to meet the needs of those suffering from crisis and its aftermath. If prioritized, aids organization would interfere i) through preventing crises ii) then responding to crises; and iii) and using a mix of humanitarian and development

38 Nigeria: Covid-19, *Situation and Overview of Humanitarian Needs*, UNICEF Situation Report – #07, Reporting Period: May 2nd -8th 2020 retrieved from www.unicef.org.

39 United Nations, *Policy Brief: Impact of Covid-19 on Children*, 16 April 2020, page.12

40 By J. Brian Atwood, *Chair of the Development Assistance Committee*, OECD, Introduction to Towards Better Humanitarian Donor ship 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews OECD 2012. www.oecd.org.

41 The main reporting platforms for international humanitarian assistance are the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS). The 29 OECD DAC members are obligated to report their humanitarian assistance to the DAC systems as part of their official development assistance (ODA), in accordance with definitions set out by the DAC. Some other governments and most major multilateral organizations also voluntarily report to the DAC.

assistance, to achieve a better transition from a humanitarian situation to longer-term development.⁴²

4. Covid-19 Global Reforms for Children: Loss, Recovery and Rehabilitation

By the UN, the health and economic impact of Covid-19 are well known but not yet quantified. As at 2021, IFAD⁴³ reports that an estimate of 100million people have contacted the virus and over 2.2 million died from the disease. According to the IMF the global economy shrunk by close to 3.5% making the deepest global recession since the second world war. On the other hand the World Bank estimates that covid-19 has pushed an additional 88-115 million people into extreme poverty. Considering the above extreme impacts of the disease, reconstruction themes on children matters, may align new international frameworks on Covid-19 with sequential events of bereavement. According to few thesis on reconstruction, moving on after bereavements, entail that participants encounter loss, recovery and rehabilitation. Each stage of the sequence is fraught with conditions and road map towards sustainable repair. At each state of reconstruction, institutions may then maintain sustainable strategies of;

LOSS	RECOVERY	REHABILITATION
Transmission of Covid-19, parents/caretakers deaths, children’s death, loss of jobs/parents, lockdown based violence and abuse, continuing ailments, psychological stress, boredom, extreme poverty, lack of access to development fora (School, religious houses, extended family, recreations centers).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. assessment of physical and socio-economic loss, b. instigating synergy among intervening institutions, c. rebuilding trust among nations, d. drawing a strategic vision for global reconstruction, e. Sustaining global access to vaccines and cure f. focus on excluded and vulnerable populations g. Cancellation and reschedules of lost curriculum h. partnership, training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Funding equitable development and vaccination plans, b. respecting international justice c. maintaining investigative, recovery, compensation and reconciliation schedules d. promoting accountability, e. enhancing social welfare structures f. maintaining and servicing aids structures g. Adherence to the rule of law

42 *Towards Better Humanitarian Donor ship: 12 Lessons From DAC Peer Reviews*, OECD 2019, page.9

43 *What impact will the Covid 19 Pandemic and the Global Economic Downturn have on World Security?*, www.ifad.org. , Matteo Marchisio 02, March 2021 retrieved December 1, 2021.

	<p>of intervention clusters,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. jobs creation j. promotion of domestic economic ingenuity k. debt reduction. l. Publicizing aids procedures 	
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Reports⁴⁴ have confirmed that the harmful effect of covid-19 would not be distributed equally. It is expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries and the poorest neighborhoods and for those in already disadvantages or vulnerable situations. For this reasons an equitable and sustainable vision at the international level may also aid children related initiatives and programs that evolve from state-nations' childhood planning commissions.

D. CONCLUSION

The study describes the overwhelming nature of global events and requests as a result of the pandemic. It explains why it is therefore necessary for requisite bodies to be guided by over aching principles that rely on objective data, measures and precedents. The initial activities would be at least to eradicate channels through which children get infected and die of the virus. The second bid is to reduce the negative socioeconomic effects of the virus and then the last process of streamlining current measures with existing efforts on Sustainable Development Goals. This last procedure covers activities that can accelerate the realization of the SDG 2030, despite the pandemic. That is where actions are subject to contemporary notions for inclusive development, equitable humanitarian intervention plans, and respect for the rights of children. At this period special attention should be on the impact of the Pandemic on vulnerable persons and low income nations. In the bid to assist, super arrangements should note that credit, loan based , locked down actions plans for recovery can also have long term implication of perpetual debts on the children in these countries. In attending to these calls, a global reconstruction policy should be equitable, fair and rely on existing global indications on Covid-19 as regards children. Equitable set up should also acknowledge the inevitable but consequential stages of loss, recovery and rehabilitation in the bid to reconstruct.

⁴⁴ *Executive summary of the Policy Brief: The Impact of Covid 19 on children*, United Nations,15 April 2020

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