

**Call to Action “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing” and UNICEF:
Webinar: A lifeline at risk: COVID-19, remittances and children
Concept Note**

When: Wednesday 25th November 2020, 8:30 – 10:00 EST / 14:30 – 16:00 CET

Where: Virtual Meeting on Zoom, <https://unicef.zoom.us/j/91979314780?from=addon>

➤ Password: remittance

Participants: States and institutional stakeholders part of the Call to Action “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing” and other select member states and organisations.

Background:

Remittances are a vital source of income for 800 million family members worldwide.ⁱ For children in these families, their wellbeing, access to education, health and opportunities are directly linked to remittances being sent by family members – the economic downturn triggered by COVID-19 will have dramatic consequences for them. As predicted by the World Bank, remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to decline by 7.2% in 2020, followed by a further decline of 7.5%, to \$470 billion in 2021.ⁱⁱ However, the profound effects that this prolonged decline in remittances may have on the wellbeing of millions of children has not been considered enough: we have been double-blind in our assessments, with debates on the impact of COVID-19 on children ignoring the importance of the decline in remittances; and debates on the impact of COVID-19 on remittances missing out on highlighting child-wellbeing.

To counter this double-blindness, the UNICEF will be launching a paper that examines the relationship between remittances, COVID-19 and childhood poverty. The report has benefited from technical contributions of members of the Call to Action and other experts, who came together during a technical discussion in October.

We are inviting the Governments and stakeholders supporting the Call to Action “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing” to find out more about how children are affected by the decline in remittances, and discuss jointly what can be done to address this.

Objectives:

- Present the UNICEF Office of Research paper on remittances, COVID-19 and childhood poverty and share findings and recommendations.
- Learn from migrant youth who are impacted by the decline in remittances – as receivers or remitters themselves.
- Share good practices from members of the Call to Action and ways to take the emerging insights and recommendations forward.
- Discuss how to strengthen the child sensitivity and focus of existing policy measures to keep remittances flowing.

ⁱ SG Policy Brief “COVID-19 and People on the Move”, June 2020

ⁱⁱ World Bank KNOMAD [Migration and Development Brief 33](#), “COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens”, October 2020