How can we as educators respond to the COVID-19 challenges to ensure the well-being of children and youth?

Maria Lucia Uribe, Director, Arigatou International Geneva
The narrative of COVID-19 has excluded children, particularly it has side-lined the impact on their lives in the long-term.

Lockdowns and government measures have invisibilized children as key actors in society.
Socio-emotional and Mental Health of Educators

- Teachers peer support online groups
- Meditation and Mindfulness practices
Transform and adapt learning into more contextual experiences for children and youth.

- **A** Deprioritize hard core subjects – prioritize socio-emotional learning
- **B** Prioritize life skills: critical thinking, empathic listening
- **C** Create opportunities for reflection, to find hope and strengthen resilience
Increase communication with parents and caregivers, as well as religious communities and civil society organizations

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Parents – first responders
Communicate
Expectations
Reach out to religious communities to provide protection
Increased support to counselling and raising awareness
Make Learning Fun

Less about technological skills of educators

Creativity to engage children

Connect learning with home activities and realities
The Importance of Interconnectedness

• The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated xenophobia, hate and exclusion
• Discriminatory rhetoric
• Give space for
Emphasize the Spiritual Development and Growth of Children

- **EMPOWER CHILDREN**
- Create spaces for them to connect with one another
- Help children be in control of their own learning
- Let children reflect about injustices, rights and be in solidarity with one another
- Give children spaces to
CONCLUDING REMARKS

• MAKE EDUCATION PART OF THE SOLUTION
• MAKE EDUCATION EMBEDDED IN THE CONTEXTUAL REALITY
• PRIORITIZE ETHICS AND SPIRITUAL EDUCATION
• TEACHERS CAN HELP FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION IN A TIME WHEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETIES ARE AT RISK
• TEACHERS CAN HELP EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO SHAPE THIS NEW WORLD
THANK YOU
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