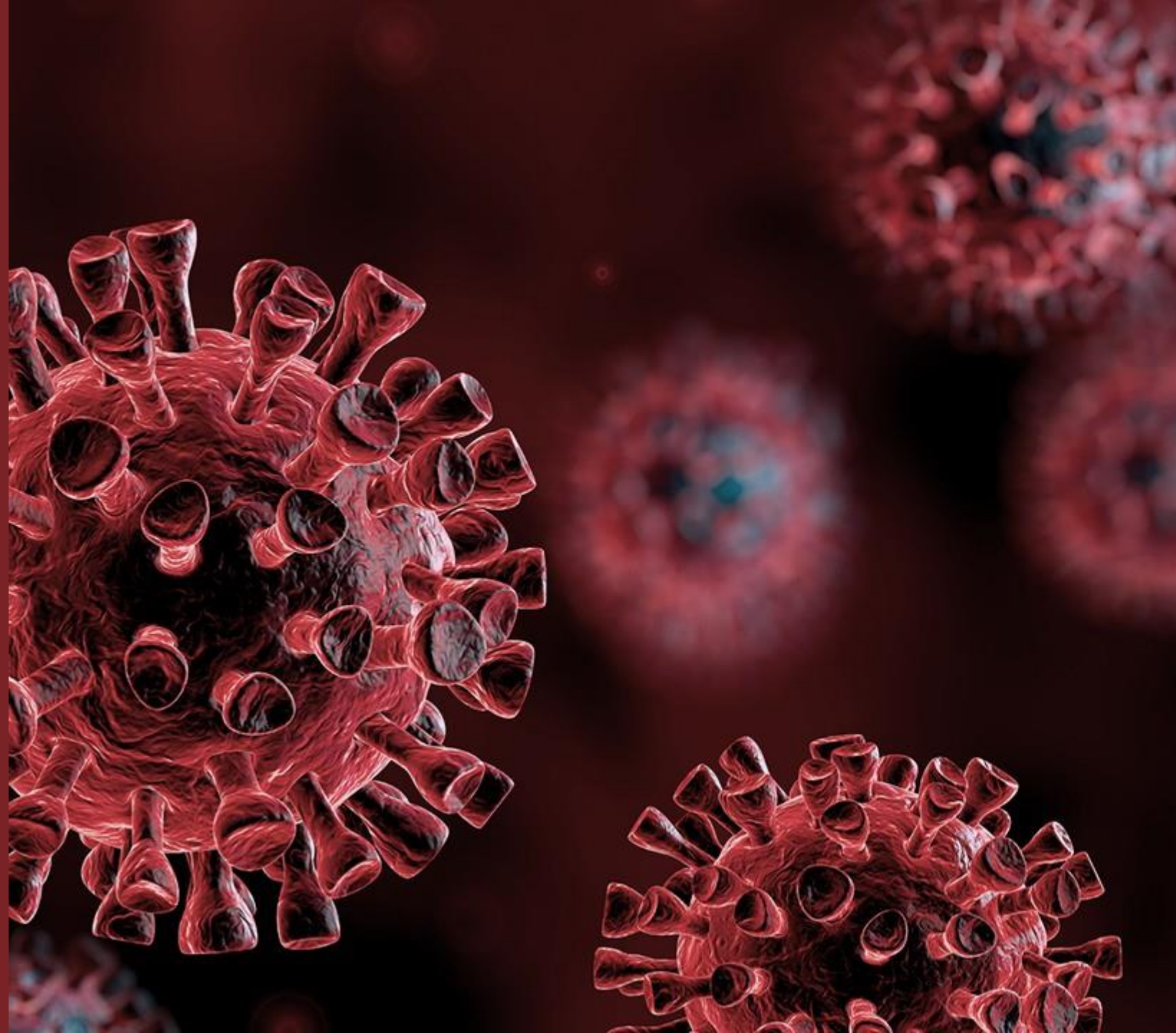
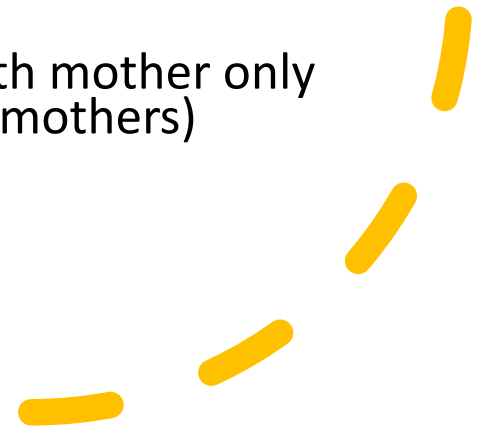


A call to prioritise
children in our
response to
COVID-19

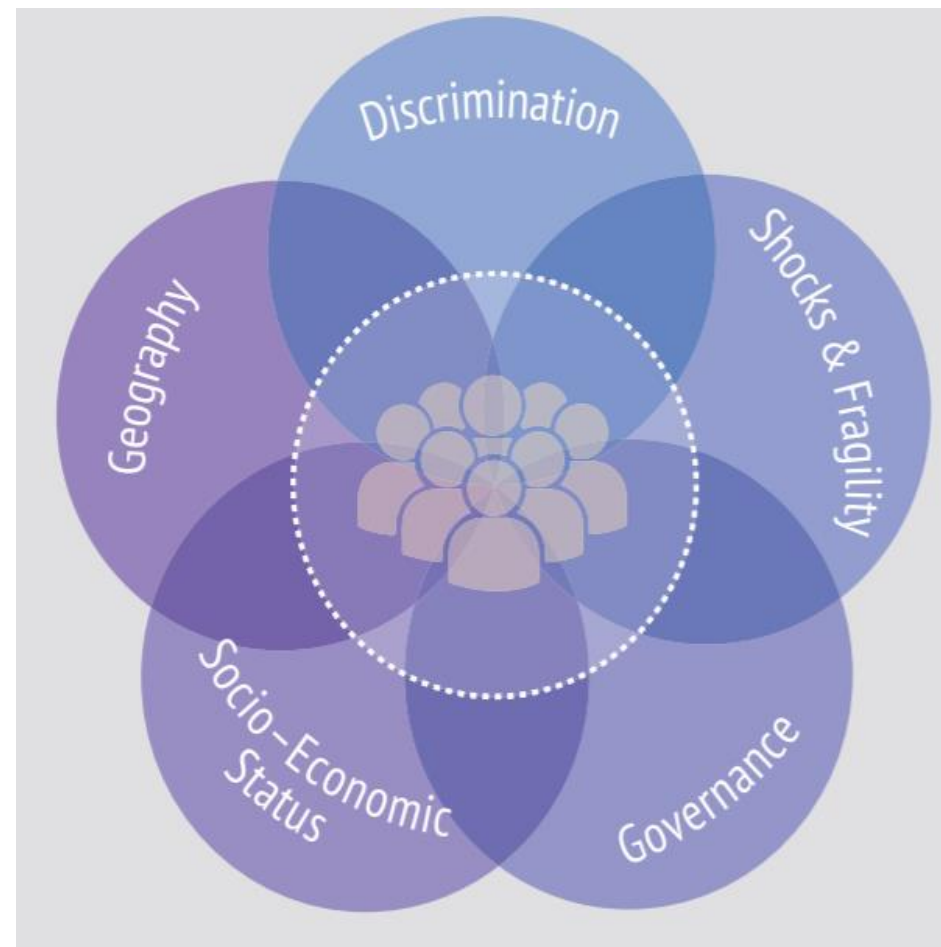


Children in South Africa are particularly vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19

- 59% of children live in poverty
- 30% without safe water on site
- 18% in overcrowded households
- 27% stunted
- 21% HIV exposed
- 20% far from clinic
- 42% maltreated
- 10-20% have mental health conditions
- 34% living with both parents, 43% living with mother only and 20% with neither parent (mostly grandmothers)
- 30% of youth are NEET



These forms of deprivation are mutually reinforcing, and shocks such as COVID-19 intensifying pre-existing tensions and vulnerabilities.



Source: United Nations Development Programme (2018) *What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation*. New York: UNDP.

Faced by a triple tsunami of:

- COVID-19
- Lockdown
- Recession

We need to ask:
Where are the children?

And look beyond health systems response

- Prevention : hygiene + social distancing
- Treatment : access to health care services

To address emerging challenges of:

- Poverty and food security
- Violence and child protection
- Mental health and psychosocial support

