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

For more information see the *South African Child Gauge 2019*
These forms of deprivation are mutually reinforcing, and shocks such as COVID-19 intensifying pre-existing tensions and vulnerabilities.

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