

**Qualitative study on childhood
under school closure**

My New Normal

**Executive summary:
Findings from Zambia**

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Save the Children**

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The following comic strip presents the findings coming out of a qualitative research on childhood under school closure commissioned by Save the Children Sponsorship team and carried out by Key Aid Consulting. It was developed by Big Blue.

The research relied on user-centered and child-friendly methods in order to capture recent changes in the daily lives of children, seen through their eyes, with a specific focus on education and learning.

In Zambia, the data collection took place in St. Josephs and Bulaya communities where the sponsorship programme is implemented.

For more information on the research and its findings, you can access the full report [here](#).



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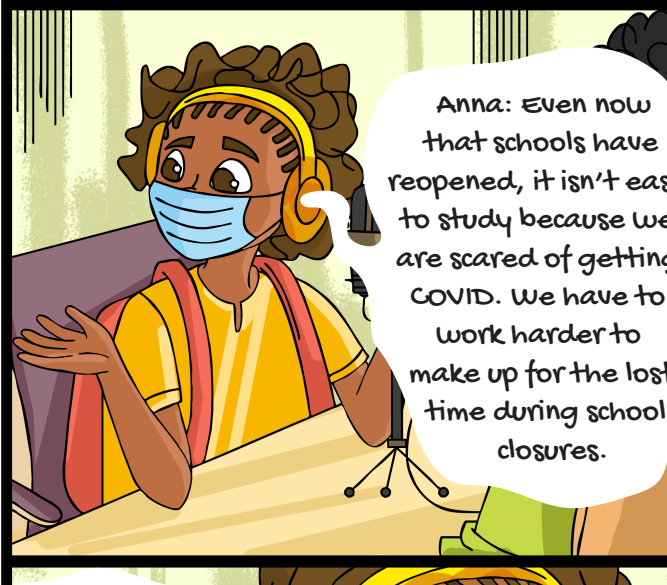
Today, we have two guests: Anna, and Evans, from a youth club in Zambia. We will be talking about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children and young people.



So guys, could you explain how the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown and school closure have impacted your lives?



Evans: It is hard for me and others to study at home during school closure ...



Anna: Even now that schools have reopened, it isn't easy to study because we are scared of getting COVID. We have to work harder to make up for the lost time during school closures.



... and nobody at home is able to help me. I also have to help my little sister study at the same time.



Many girls did not come back to school, as they fell pregnant, or got married off.



My parents are struggling to earn money. They often eat less so that my sister and I can have more.



I am scared that I will fail my exams. I have been feeling a bit anxious as well.





I see most parents in the village forcing their children to get married because they cannot provide for them, and I think most of these school-going children will be married off soon. So, the government should warn parents and raise their awareness about the dangers of these types of practices. Maybe they could also encourage young people to use family planning and ensure that people that stay home can continue to work or have an income.



would like to say that we pupils were disturbed, and it would be difficult to catch up with the studies we have missed. Economically, life was difficult, as prices were too high and there were food shortages. I encourage the government to find ways to bring back the life we were leading.

Yes, but that requires that we have access to sufficient quantities of masks and protective equipment, like hand-washing stations in school, for instance, which is not the case right now. And finally, I think that Chanda was right, that if another lockdown happens, there should be some help given to young people who are feeling sad, lonely and depressed.



I also think pregnant girls should not stop coming to school. We should educate others so that people can follow the COVID-19 rules, such as wearing masks and respecting social distancing in church.