**1. What are the main challenges young people are facing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and what are the responses to the pandemic?**

**The main problems that young people named:**

1. **Deterioration in the quality of school, vocational and higher education** due to the transition to online learning. After switching to online learning, young people faced the following challenges:
* **Poor internet quality** (especially relevant in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).
* The low income of families did not allow students to purchase additional devices for online learning (smartphones, computers). This problem was especially acute in families with two or more students.
* The teaching staff of schools, colleges and universities was not ready for the transition to online learning. As a result, most often, students were forced to master the educational material on their own.
* Despite the fact that in the countries of the region, students have entered the classroom, young people face difficulties in mastering educational material due to a knowledge gap that has arisen during the pandemic
1. **Reduced access to vocational and higher education institutions** for school graduates. Due to the decline in the quality of education, a significant proportion of respondents said that they had lost confidence in the ability to get the required score when entering college and university. At the same time, the reduction of the passing score was not provided by the governments of the countries.
2. **Restriction of freedom of association and peaceful assembly** - a ban on holding conferences, trainings and other educational events. Especially young people in Kazakhstan still face this problem. The state of emergency in place since the start of the pandemic allows the authorities to ban any peaceful assembly.
3. **Difficulties in finding employment**, rising unemployment and declining incomes. One in three young people reported that they had experienced the loss of a job or difficulties in finding a primary job. Mostly young people are employed in the service sector (catering, delivery service, sellers). The pandemic has led to significant job cuts and increased competition, which in turn has led to lower wages.
4. **Restriction of freedom of religion**. Due to the fact that religious institutions were closed during the pandemic in the countries of the region, young people were not able to perform religious rites. This problem is especially relevant for young people who profess Islam, since according to the canons of religion, part of the rites must be performed together in a religious community.
5. **Restriction of access to medical care**. This problem took place in the first months of the pandemic, when, due to movement restrictions, young people were not able to freely visit medical institutions. In Kyrgyzstan, some young people could not receive hemodialysis due to movement restrictions. Due to the large number of patients, the ambulance service often favored middle-aged patients. There images of young people have become victims of age discrimination.
6. **Restriction of access to information.** Young people say that at the beginning of the pandemic they felt

**2**. **What measures are being taken in the country/region where you work to support young people and ensure the full enjoyment of their rights during and after the pandemic? Please provide examples of regulations and programs adopted for this purpose**

1. **The right to education.** The states of the countries of the region understand that the transition to online learning has had a negative impact on the quality of education. According to the participants in the discussion, the states have done everything possible to ensure that students can return to educational institutions as soon as possible. In some schools and universities in Kyrgyzstan, a hybrid learning format was used (online lectures, practical lessons in the building of the educational institution). School students reported that teachers were more lenient towards them when grading, as they understood that students did not have the opportunity to receive a quality education.
2. **Restrictions on freedom of association and peaceful assembl**y-. Positive trends were noted by young people from Kyrgyzstan. Despite the current state of emergency, the government in mid-2021 allowed events (including trainings and seminars) for up to 50 people.

**3. What role have youth played in the COVID-19 response, vaccination and pandemic response efforts in the country/region where you work?**

Young people in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan note that the volunteer movement in these countries has intensified during the pandemic. Young people, using social media, have formed support groups for the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.