



Good morning, I'm Yadira Ledezma García, I'm 13 years old and I live in Cochabamba (Bolivia). I'm in second grade at the San Rafael High School.

Classes were interrupted on March 12. After a few weeks without any activities, Internet classes were introduced via WhatsApp, Classroom, Meet and Zoom, which was difficult for the majority of students who are on pay-as-you-go Internet tariffs and have to pay per megabyte.

The government closed the 2020 school year at the beginning of August and we automatically passed to the next grade. Through an agreement between teachers and families, distance classes continue extra-officially.

The official closure of the school year has caused a lot of school dropouts.

In our High School in Cochabamba, 65% of students continue with their distance learning in September.

Despite a very severe lockdown, cases continued to grow, reaching a peak in the months of July and August. At the end of September, the official sources indicate 140,000 cases and almost 8,000 deaths, but reliable sources estimate three times the number of deaths. The shortage of tests available means that the figures are unreliable. The saturation of hospitals during this period is a fact. In September 2020, most of the economic activity will start over, but not social, cultural or church events.

It is very difficult for many children and teenagers not to be able to get out of the house, particularly for children at kindergarten and primary school, who have been locked down for 6 months without being able to meet their friends, play, or do typical kids' stuff.

It's been very hard, very tough, to stop doing the activities I used to do and to adapt to the new circumstances, to virtual classes... But I've made the most of it, to spend time with my family and read books...

Some things we can learn from this pandemic: to be patient, to get along with each other, to have faith in God, and to help each other.

Best wishes.

*Restarting
to transform*