

# CASE STUDY 1



## MARLY

Marly, 16  
Colombia



Photo: Daniela Miranda/Save the Children

At the end of August 2020 Colombia had reported 582,000 cases of COVID-19 and almost 18,500 deaths. When the COVID-19 quarantine began in March 2020, the Ministry of Education closed schools until at least the end of August 2020 and introduced online home learning.

Marly is 16 years old and goes to school in a remote rural area in Santander province. She says:

“ Thousands of children and young people have been forced to adopt a new system of learning by virtual means that has generated many difficulties.

It is tiring for a child to have to stay in front of an electronic device all day. In addition, there are children without internet or who live far away and do not have access to the guidelines.

(I live in) a region that has suffered through a war between groups outside the law and the

Government for more than 50 years. The war mostly affects children and young people, who have nothing to do with the conflict. In addition, there is no internet, there is no telephone signal, and there are many low-income families.

The distance from the rural areas (where I live) to the urban areas is quite far, and a large proportion of parents do not know how to read. So, imagine how education for these children becomes very difficult. Many of them leave school. At this time of coronavirus, many students have decided to drop out.

In order to change this, we need preparation for teachers on ICT, economic benefits for children in rural areas, and money that poorer students could use for books, learning guidelines and internet access. The voices of children must be heard. ”