In the Esperanza neighbourhood, 56 % of these people live in precarious conditions. Many families have only one room (71 %), they have no drinking water (80 %). Only 34 % of the population has access to hand washing facilities.

The prevalence of other health conditions in the population, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and malnutrition, make the population particularly vulnerable to infection. The disease is still not fully understood. Given the minimal capacities for testing and reporting cases, official data may not be reflecting all cases of COVID-19.

The pandemic has further exacerbated gender inequalities and domestic violence is exacerbated by imposed confinement.

In the Esperanza neighbourhood, most people earn their living in the informal economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unemployment, job losses and wealth destruction very early on, even before the health effects became apparent.

Prolonged school closures at all levels of education, coupled with widespread economic hardship, can undermine aspirations and possibilities and exacerbate inequalities.

Although mobile phones can provide support, around 40 % of young students live in areas without coverage by mobile phone networks, and access rates are always worse for girls and women. Even where computers are provided, these investments do not yield all the expected results due to unreliable power supply and poor internet connectivity, along with financial costs. Improved Internet access can reduce disparities in access to education through lifelong learning, and can provide a vital source of information and awareness about the pandemic.