

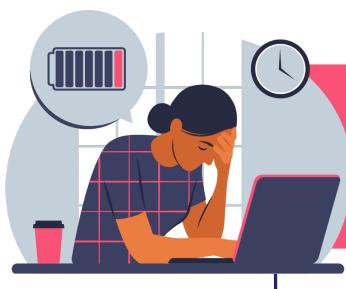
## Families with Refugee Backgrounds and Online Schooling during COVID-19

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Weathering the Storm: How African Families with Refugee Backgrounds Coped with Online Schooling during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 Pandemic

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**SUMMARY:** This study looked at the different experiences and challenges faced by refugee mothers and their children from the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea) during pandemic online schooling.

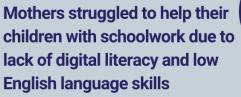
LINK: Click here to read the executive summary



Challenges faced by families with refugee backgrounds during pandemic online learning.



A lack of physical space and time







Poor internet connection







**Parental stress** 



Financial and food insecurity

Gender disparities: boys got to use computers first but struggled to stay engaged while girls were expected to help with housework



## **Recommendations:**

- To minimize language and literacy barriers, schools should connect directly with families by phone rather than relying on written communication.
- Schools must acknowledge that parents with refugee backgrounds are involved at home but may use forms of capital that are not recognized by schools.
- Gender differences must be taken into account when developing policy and programs for online learning.
- Mothers with refugee backgrounds need support to become more involved in their children's education.
- More supports for women with refugee experience should be provided during times of crisis, such as COVID-19.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition.

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