

COVID-19 AFTERSHOCKS

A PERFECT STORM:
MILLIONS MORE
CHILDREN AT RISK
OF VIOLENCE UNDER
LOCKDOWN AND INTO
THE 'NEW NORMAL'

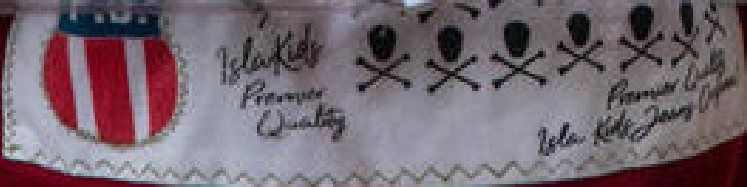
World Vision 



It takes a world
to end violence against children



COVER PHOTO: ©2020 World Vision; Girl from Mongolia staying at home due to COVID virus outbreak



Summary

COVID-19 poses a grave threat to the world's children. As we showed in our [previous report](#), while the mortality rate for healthy children infected by the virus has been lower than for adults and those with pre-existing conditions, 30 million are still at risk of illness and death. It is the indirect effects and impacts of this disease that pose a clear and present danger to children, particularly the most vulnerable.

This report looks at one those impacts of COVID-19 on girls and boys. Violence. We predict a major spike in the cases of children experiencing physical, emotional and sexual violence, both now and in the months and years to come. Whether they are forced to stay at home, or, in time, are sent to work or pushed into early marriage, boys and girls face a bleak future – unless governments, UN agencies, donors, NGOs, and the private sector do everything thing they can *now* to protect them.



Chris Huber; ©2020 World Vision;
Jorman, 5, a sponsored child in
South Quito, Ecuador, holds his new
education kit from World Vision
during quarantine

Key findings of this report



Up to 85 million more girls and boys worldwide may be exposed to physical, sexual and/or emotional violence over three months as a result of COVID-19 quarantine.

We believe many of 13 million extra child marriages predicted by UNFPA will occur in the years immediately following the crises, with at least 4 million more girls married in the next two years.



A national assessment supported by World Vision and coalition partners in Bangladesh revealed beatings by parents or guardians had increased by 42% and that there was a 40% increase of calls to the child helpline.

To slow the spread of COVID-19, 177 countries are implementing nationwide closures of schools, affecting over 73 percent of the world's student populationⁱ meaning children are at home most of the time. Ironically, while such quarantine arrangements are aimed at keeping children protected, these measures have instead isolated many boys and girls in homes that are unsafe. Millions of children worldwide are at increased risk of emotional, physical and sexual violence at home and

in their community. Scared and anxious about the threat of the virus and the resultant economic slowdown, some caregivers may lash out at those nearest to them. Existing anger and tension can be exacerbated by increased alcohol consumption. Children stuck at home are at increased risk from abusers – whether relatives or other community members – especially those who were already experiencing violence. Also, girls and boys who are already particularly vulnerable

– including children with disabilities or those already living in poverty, economic distress, or fragile or conflict-affected contexts – will see their risks further exacerbated by this lockdown.

Under normal circumstances, it is estimated that more than one billion children experience some form of violence each year.ⁱⁱ Based on our review of emerging indicators of violence against children – including reports of increased domestic

violence, surges in calls to child helplines, insight from our field offices, as well as what we know from previous crises – we estimate that that violence against children could increase by between 20% and 32%. This could mean **up to 85 million more girls and boys worldwide may be exposed to physical, sexual and/or emotional violence over the next three months as a result of COVID-19 quarantine.**¹

Millions more children are at increased risk of child marriage and child labour over the coming years as family livelihoods evaporate and economic crises ensue, pushing families to identify other forms of income which harm children.

Things are made even worse for these children because the systems and services that can help detect, respond, and prevent such threats and violence are operating with little or no capacity during the pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, these systems and services already suffered from extremely low levels of government and donor investment, as well as gaps in policies and systems to end violence against children. Donor investment in ending violence against children are just 0.6% of total Official Development Assistance and 0.5% of global humanitarian fundingⁱⁱⁱ.

This lack of commitment to protecting children, plus the impact of COVID-19 on countries where children are already vulnerable, equals disaster for millions unless urgent action is taken now.



©2020 World Vision; Erisa, 5 years old, from Albania. Her family is part of the initiative, “Stay at Home Family Challenge”. This initiative is a programme with a series of psychosocial activities created in response to the emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of families in Albania and Kosovo during the isolation period, as a result of COVID-19 emergency.

¹ Our estimate is based on interpersonal violence against children – including physical, emotional and sexual violence – but excludes lighter forms of physical punishment, child marriage and child labour. The figure does not take into account that the same child may be experiencing multiple incidents of violence, but neither does it reflect that violence against children is generally underreported. See methodology section for further details.

Background

We know from evidence and past experience – including during disease outbreaks such as Ebola – that violence increases during crises, negatively affecting the lives and future potential of girls and boys. COVID-19 is no exception.

Violence and its costs

Every year, more than one billion children around the globe experience emotional, physical and sexual violence in their homes, communities and schools.^{iv} Children of all ages experience violence, but the specific risks to which they are exposed vary by their stage of development and their environment. Both boys and girls are at risk of violence although they experience it differently. Harmful social norms about gender make girls especially vulnerable to gender-based violence, including sexual abuse and violence, rape, trafficking, child marriage, and female genital mutilation and cutting. Boys tend to be more vulnerable to physical violence and child labour.

While violence against children can happen anywhere, it most often takes place within the home, frequently alongside violence against women.

The root causes range from societal to intimately personal. Cultural norms, gender inequality, poverty and economic distress, conflict and displacement, and weak ‘safety net’ services² are among the drivers of violence against children. Often violence is under-reported and hidden, meaning children’s suffering remains invisible to decision makers and the public alike.

Failing to prevent and effectively respond to violence against children can have life-long impacts on children’s physical and mental health and well-being, educational attainment and development.^v It limits girls’ and boys’ ability to fulfill their potential and increases the likelihood that they will be perpetrators or victims of violence as adults, further perpetuating cycles of violence, poverty, and gender inequality.^{vi}

Violence against girls and boys also has significant economic costs for individuals and societies, globally estimated at up to US\$7 trillion annually.^{vii}

Governments across the globe have committed to end violence against children in all its forms by ratifying the Convention on the Rights on the Child. This commitment was reinforced in 2015 with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 16.2 to, “end the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”.^{viii}

Despite these commitments, significant gaps remain and violence against children persists in every single country.

Underprioritised by governments and donors

A previous World Vision report [Small Cracks, Big Gaps](#) has identified significant gaps in government laws, policies, programmes and budgets to respond to violence against children.^{ix} A review of the legal, policy, and planning progress on violence against children in 20 countries revealed that, despite some progress, shortcomings remain around prevention, reporting, accountability, funding, and data for addressing violence against children. Laws against

What is violence against children?

Violence against children includes all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence; neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation; harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation; trafficking; child labour and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

Child protection is the prevention of and response to violence against children.

² A social safety net is a collection of services to prevent and respond to violence against children provided by the state or other institutions such as charities.

gender-based violence (including sexual violence and child marriage) are particularly lacking. Response to COVID-19 will exaggerate these existing gaps.

In addition, donor investment in efforts to prevent and respond

to violence against children are extremely low in the world's poorest countries and those in the greatest need of foreign assistance. These are the places where it is most difficult to be a child, where risks of violence are highest, where children are affected by armed conflict, and where the

long-term impacts of COVID-19 may be the greatest. Recent studies of Official Development Assistance data estimate that less than 0.6% of total global spending and 0.5% of global humanitarian funding is allocated to ending violence against children.^x



©2020 World Vision; Syrian refugees and the fear of COVID-19: 'We are not willing to underestimate it, and the bombings were not as scary!'



Suborno Chisim ©2020 World Vision; Bangladesh Tania (7), who is in class II, is stuck at her home due to COVID 19. The small window of her house is her only way to have contact with the outside world

Heightened vulnerabilities due to COVID-19

Increased risks

Crises like COVID-19 both exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and create new ones. This is especially true in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where girls and boys already face heightened risks of violence. As governments require people to stay home and close schools and public spaces in order to contain the disease, children, especially the most vulnerable, face increased risks of psychological distress, violence, neglect, and social exclusion.

For many children, home may not be a safe place — either because it never was or has become unsafe due to the stress of the pandemic. Other children are facing new vulnerabilities as they become separated from their caregivers due to hospitalisation, medical isolation or death. Those living in crowded conditions in urban slums or refugee camps are facing increased tensions. Fear of the disease and distrust among some communities is leading to stigmatisation and creating additional safety concerns for children.

Evidence to date

As governments have introduced movement restrictions to stem the spread of COVID-19, several indicators point to a rise in various forms of violence against children. For the limited number of countries where data currently exists, there has been an increase in calls to child helplines. No countries are immune: the UK's NSPCC³ recently reported that it saw a surge in the number of calls to its helpline: 1,580 between April 13-19 from people

³ National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



Catty Lopes; ©2020 World Vision; since the first cases of COVID-19 in Brazil, the Amazon has faced an increasing number of deaths due to the pandemic, being the northern state with the highest death rate from the disease

concerned about the safety of a child in lockdown⁴.

In World Vision's own work with communities and its collaborations with government and other agencies, we have seen an increase in cases of child abuse and other forms of violence. In just one area where we work in Kenya, 18 cases of sexual abuse against girls were recently reported. This echoes an announcement by the Chief Justice of Kenya that in just the first two weeks of April there was a 35% increase in gender-based violence cases and a 50% increase in violence against girls.

In India, World Vision runs programmes to teach children about their rights and how to use a child helpline to report violations of theirs or other children's rights. Since quarantine, colleagues there have revealed that there has been such a swell in the numbers of calls to the



©2020 World Vision; 15-year-Old Simon stays in a refugee settlement in Uganda. He reads from home on the radio since schools closed about two months ago

child helpline they have struggled to answer them all. Of the calls that came through in April, seven related to pending child marriages. Thankfully, with the help of the police World Vision staff were able to stop the weddings from taking place.

In Bangladesh, April's [national impact and needs assessment](#) compiled by a range of stakeholders including World Vision revealed that beatings by parents or guardians had increased by 42%; that there was a 40% increase of calls to the child helpline; and that 50% of those interviewed said the safety and security of girls was an issue in the lockdown.

There have also been reports of significant increases in calls to domestic violence hotlines. The UNFPA has recently predicted the increase in domestic violence of 20% due to measures associated with managing the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the percentages disclosed by the SOS hotlines and reported in media tend to be much higher – an average of 32% according to the reports we assessed⁴. Given what we know about the strong co-occurrence between domestic violence and child abuse, we can safely assume that violence against children is also on the rise. **We are concerned that between 53 and 85 million children could experience violence over an initial 3-month period of lockdown.**⁵

Movement restrictions and e-learning are also increasing children's time online, placing them at heightened risk of online bullying, engaging in harmful online behaviors, and/or targeting by predators for sexual exploitation. The most recent report from EUROPOL has noted that demand for child pornographic content has been on the increase during the COVID-19 pandemic.^{xii} These reports are sadly echoed in data that is coming from other parts of the world, including India, Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia.^{xiii}

⁴ See Table 1

⁵ For details, please see methodology

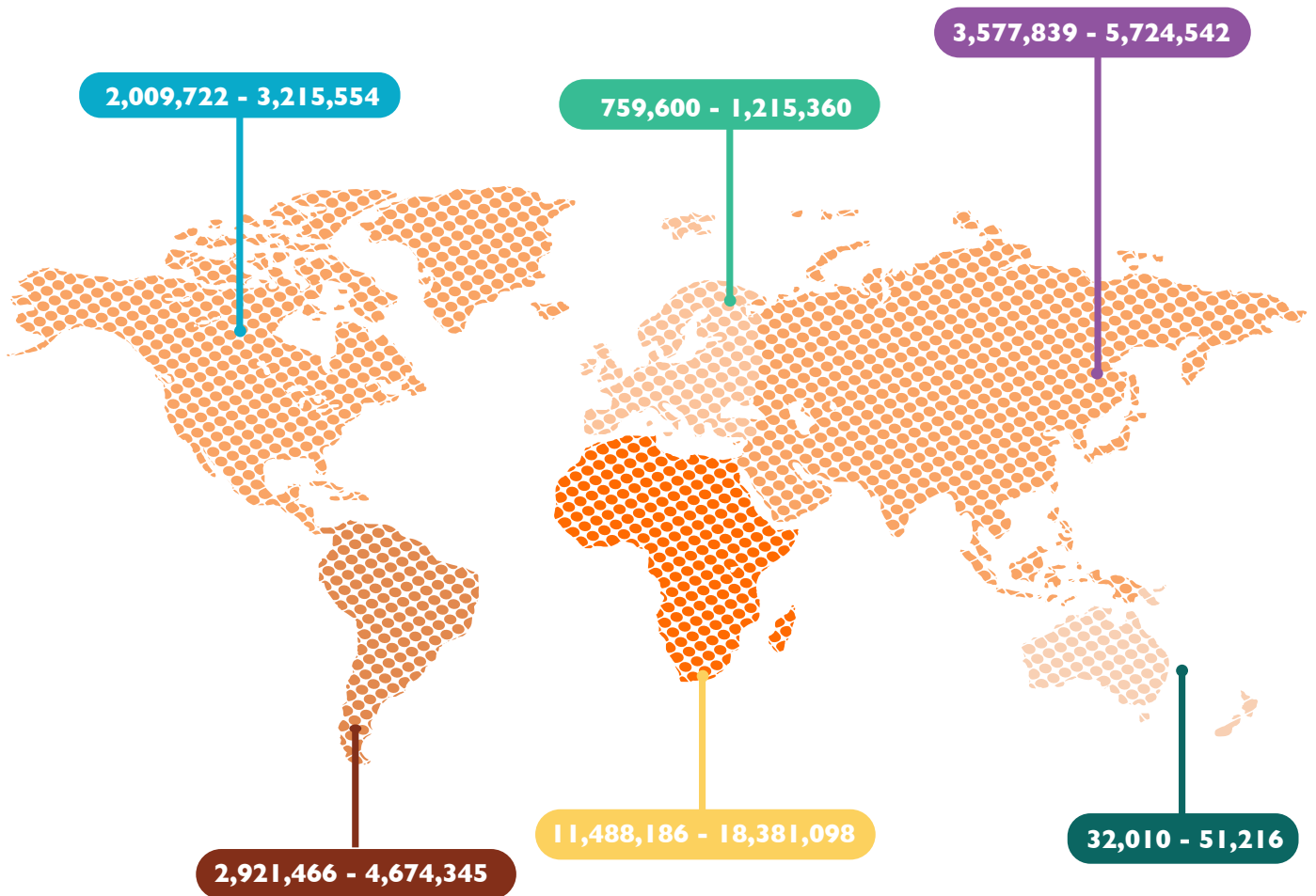
Regional and global estimates of numbers of children exposed to increased violence

Based on two possible scenarios – a 20% and 32% increase in violence against children during a three-month period of COVID-19 restrictions (which we believe to be reasonable low and high-end estimates) – the following picture shows the potential increases in violence against children.

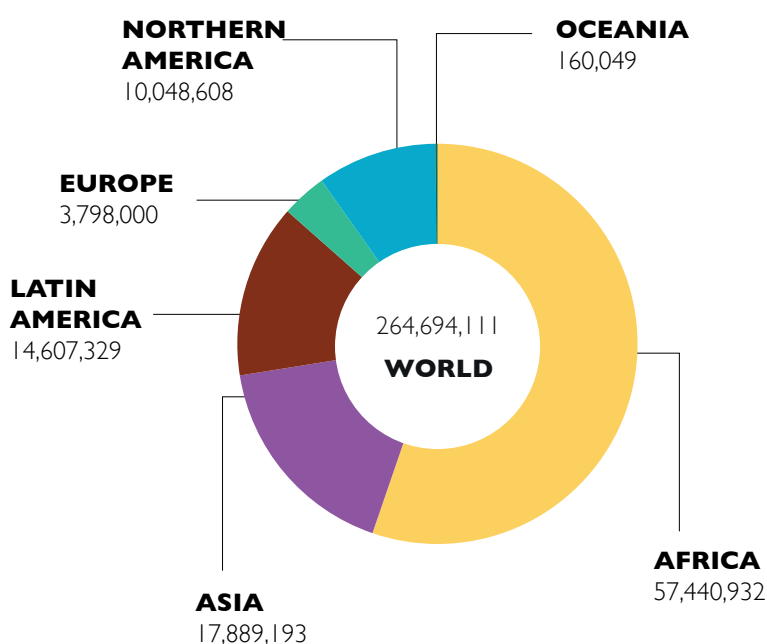
PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE DUE TO COVID-19



52,938,822 - 84,702,116



MONTHLY PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN BEFORE COVID-19



Source: Based on the estimates produced by Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: A systematic review and minimum estimates. *Pediatrics* 2016; 137(3): 1-13. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26810785>. The figure includes physical, emotional and sexual violence and excludes lighter forms of physical punishment, as well as child marriage and child labour.

In addition, over the mid- to long-term, hardships related to the loss of income and livelihoods will lead to an increase in families resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including child labour and child marriage. As family income and livelihood become strained, marriage of adolescent girls can be perceived by parents or caregivers as a way to reduce the household burden, or a means to earn income or access loans through informal dowry-based economies. It has been recently estimated that there will be an additional 13 million child marriages over the next ten years due to COVID-19, adding to the 150 million already expected to occur in that time period.^{xiv} Our experience shows that many of these marriages will occur in the years immediately following the crises, with the potential to see **at least four million more girls married in the next two years.**^{xv}

None of these risks are news to us. Recent experiences with Ebola in West Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) demonstrated the significant impacts public health emergencies can have on children's safety. The 2014-16 West Africa Ebola outbreak was accompanied by spikes in abuse, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, adolescent pregnancy, child labour and various other forms of violence against children, especially girls.^{xvi} In the DRC, girls and boys were separated from their families, lost caregivers, and experienced stigma and disruption of day-to-day activities like going to school and playing with their friends.^{xvii}

Similar increases in both child abuse and domestic violence have been documented in various other crises, including disasters such as

Hurricane Harvey in 2017 in the United States^{xviii} and other pandemics including the HIV and AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.^{xix} Increases in violence against children are not region-specific, but the long-term implications will be most severe in fragile and low-income countries, where systems may not be in place to support immediate response, recovery, and resilience.

Decreased ability to seek help

Governments' COVID-19 prevention policies and the sheer scale of the pandemic have already translated into reduced access to basic services for children and the people and systems that normally help keep them safe. Child protection and social support services – whether formal or community-based – have been forced

to close or move online. Movement restrictions have prevented child protection and welfare workers, as well as humanitarian aid workers, from being able to reach girls and boys who are in need.

This is especially true in fragile and humanitarian settings where child protection systems are already weak or non-existent. During the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the systems designed to keep children safe – whether child welfare structures or community-based mechanisms – were weakened and child protection responses were either delayed, under-funded, or insufficiently integrated by the international humanitarian community.^{xx}

COVID-19 is making it increasingly difficult – even impossible – for children to flee a violent situation,

confide in a friend, report the incidence of violence or seek help from a teacher or other community members.

Further strains on public services during and following a pandemic can weaken the capacity of existing child protection systems and lead to breakdown of referrals between health and child protection systems. This can specifically impact fragile and conflict-affected contexts where humanitarian child protection services are the only option for millions of children. In South Sudan, Women and Girls' Safe Spaces and Child Friendly Spaces have temporarily closed due to COVID-19 measures, despite offering one of the primary means for girls and boys to report and seek support.

Schools in particular can be an essential lifeline and protective environment for girls and boys.

Teachers are often the first point of contact for children experiencing violence and they can report or make referrals to child protection systems. With schools closed, many of the children most at risk of experiencing violence will also not have access to the technology needed to stay connected with teachers, friends and extended family.

For many children, the violence they experience as a result of COVID-19 will not be temporary. Things may never return to 'normal', and millions of girls and boys will stay trapped in cycles of violence, limiting their potential and setting back progress towards more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable futures.



©2020 World Vision; World Vision staff talking to child during home visit and monitoring. Photo is taken on March 20, before social distancing order in Mongolia

What is World Vision doing to help?

World Vision runs a range of programmes as well as the global campaign [It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children](#) that, even before COVID-19, was aimed at protecting children from violence across a range of contexts. These included forming community protection committees; training community health workers to spot and address the signs of domestic violence; equipping faith leaders to champion an end to harmful community practices such as FGM and child marriage; and teaching parents about positive discipline for children without using violence. Importantly, World Vision works directly with children, to train them how to protect themselves and support their peers.

We have ramped up such programming as part of our COVID response planning and by the beginning of May:

684,200 people had been reached with information, education, and communication materials to help provide psychosocial support;

392,100 children were supported with child protection programming;

14,700 frontline actors, including faith leaders, were reached with training on child rights and protection;

47 policy or operational changes were achieved through advocacy and external engagement resulting in an improved response to COVID-19 that aims to strengthen child protection.

Given that movement is currently restricted in many contexts, World Vision is rapidly innovating our approach, using new technology and relying on the high level of trust we have with communities. World Vision staff are working with community volunteers, faith leaders, parents, and children in coalition with key agencies to highlight this growing risk to children, and doing what we can to mitigate violations of children's rights and occurrence of child protection concerns during COVID-19. Visit [here](#) for the latest information about World Vision's global COVID response.



©2020 World Vision: Family in Mongolia playing a World Vision distributed board game that encourages positive parenting and caring relationships in family

Recommendations

It is critical that the world acts now to prevent and respond to violence against children as part of the COVID-19 response. Based on our decades of experience working with children, families and communities in crises, World Vision calls on governments, UN agencies, donors, NGOs, and the private sector to:

Include child protection as a priority, by incorporating it in all response plans and efforts at national level.

Recognise the child protection services and workforce as essential, and ensure continuity and availability of child protection services for all children, particularly for those in fragile and humanitarian contexts.

Ensure continued functioning of child-friendly and survivor-centered reporting mechanisms such as child helplines and community-based solutions for child-friendly counselling, reporting, and response.

Ensure the availability of, and facilitate access to mental health and psychosocial support services for children and parents or caregivers who are a risk or have experienced violence. This may also include remote counselling options or community outreach programmes.

Ensure training on COVID-19-related child protection risks is mainstreamed across all sectors, and all personnel, regardless of function, be trained on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and how to safely report concerns.

Ensure social protection measures are in place for the most vulnerable, providing families with cash and food assistance to meet their children's immediate basic needs, and supporting parents to identify positive coping mechanisms cognisant of protection risks for children.

Ensure adherence to child protection minimum standards and globally recommended practices

including the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the INSPIRE strategies for ending violence against children, and the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action's technical note on the Protection of children during the coronavirus pandemic.

Maintain and expand budgets and investments aimed at child protection and ending violence against children.

Donors should also ensure 4% of total humanitarian assistance is dedicated to child protection and encourage governments and other stakeholders to dedicated funding for child protection interventions from the onset.



©2020 World Vision; Juliete and her children, — in São Paulo, received Tenderness Boxes and the basic basket from World Vision

Appendix: Methodology

Estimating increases in violence against children due to COVID-19 is difficult due to limited data availability and significant under-reporting.^{xxi} In the absence of administrative data, we have considered child helpline call data to be one of the possible indicators. However, information is currently available for only a small handful of countries. Also, some countries have reported decrease in calls to child helplines reporting child abuse – thought to be caused by children’s inability to report and lack of contact with teachers and pediatricians that would normally report such incidents. Due to the inconsistency of data we have decided not to base our estimates on child helplines reports. That said, the estimates used in this analysis are generally consistent with records of increases where data exists.^{xxii}

We decided to estimate increases in violence against children by looking at increases in reports of domestic violence reported by the SOS hotlines for domestic violence and reported in media. Domestic violence as a form of intimate partner violence⁶ mainly affects women. At least one in three women globally has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some other way – most often by someone she knows, including by her husband, partner or another male family member^{xxiii}. However, domestic violence also significantly impacts girls and boys. There is a strong, well-documented co-occurrence between child abuse

and domestic violence. Violence against children and women in the home is shaped by similar risk factors and often occur in the same time periods.^{xxiv} Put another way, domestic violence is a significant risk factor and indicator for emotional abuse, physical punishment, and physical abuse.^{xxv} Recent studies have observed a 12-70% co-occurrence rate between domestic/intimate partner violence and child maltreatment.^{xxvi}

Given this strong co-occurrence, we used estimates of increases in domestic violence due to COVID-19 as a predictor of an increase in violence against children, then applied this increase to the 3-month average number of children exposed

to physical, emotional and sexual violence.

We considered two scenarios in our analysis: (i) a 20% increase in domestic violence as estimated in a recent report on gender-based violence and the pandemic by the UN Population Fund based on delay in the scale-up of prevention efforts as attention and resources are devoted to COVID-19, and an increase in violence during the period of lockdown,^{xxvii}; and (ii) an average 32% increase in domestic violence based on evidence in recent media reports on increase in calls to domestic violence hotlines from 13 countries including India, Mexico, Spain and the United States^{xxviii}.

TABLE 1: REPORTED INCREASE IN CALLS TO SOS HOTLINES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUE TO COVID-19

Country	% Increase in calls to SOS Hotlines due COVID 19
Argentina	25%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22%
Brazil	18%
Chile	75%
Cyprus	47%
France	30%
India	32%
Lebanon	50%
Mexico	25%
Montenegro	27%
Singapore	33%
Spain	12%
USA	21.50%
Average Increase	32%

⁶ Intimate partner violence is one of the most common forms of violence against women and includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and controlling behaviours by an intimate partner (WHO, 2012)

Region	3-month average number of children ages 2-17 exposed to any violence or severe violence ^{xxix}	A 20% increase	A 32 % increase
Africa	57,440,932	11,488,186	18,381,098
Asia	17,889,193	3,577,839	5,724,542
Latin America	14,607,329	2,921,466	4,674,345
Europe	3,798,000	759,600	1,215,360
Northern America	10,048,608	2,009,722	3,215,554
Oceania	160,049	32,010	51,216
World	264,694,111	52,938,822	84,702,116

For the simplicity of analysis and given the extensive evidence on the strong co-occurrence between the two, we have assumed that there is a linear correlation between the increase in domestic violence and increase in violence against children. Under this assumption, the child abuse can only increase up to the level of increase in domestic violence (for example 30% increase in domestic violence will mean 30% or less increase in child abuse). We accept that this relationship can be different and that trends in increase of child abuse and domestic violence do not have to be perfectly correlated and therefore the increase in child abuse could be less than the increase in domestic violence. However, we do not believe this assumption has overly biased our findings as the increases in child abuse could in fact be higher.

Limitations

Beyond those already noted, the estimates in this brief are based on a number of additional assumptions, including (i) that trends in observed increases in incidence of domestic violence are representative of global trends and (ii) can be consistently applied over a 3-month period regardless of the time period the reports cover (5 days to 2-4 weeks); (iii) that increase in SOS hotline calls represents increase in number of cases of domestic violence; (iv) that the existing evidence of co-occurrence between domestic abuse and child abuse holds true amidst COVID-19; (v) that global annual projections of violence against children can be accurately represented by averaging over a 3-month period; and (vi) increases in

household violence against children – given this represents the vast majority of interpersonal violence against children – can serve as a proxy for total violence against children.

We have considered the fact that is impossible to determine whether an increase in *incidence* of violence equates to an increase in *prevalence* of violence– i.e. how much of the increase includes children who had previously experienced violence versus those who are experiencing it for the first time. Given the size of increase in incidences and the fact that most of violence against children goes unreported, for the purpose of this report we have assumed that increase in incidence can lead to up the same percentage of increase in prevalence.

Endnotes

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- ^{xi} The Express and Star, “[Hidden away, the young who suffer in lockdown](#)”
- ^{xii} EUROPOL , “[Catching the virus: cybercrime, disinformation and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)”, 2020
- ^{xiii} ECPAT, *Why children are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse*, 2020, <https://www.ecpat.org/news/covid-19-sexual-abuse/>; The STAR, *Coronavirus fuels cybersex trafficking fears for children in South East Asia*, <https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2020/03/26/coronavirus-fuels-cybersex-trafficking-fears-for-children-in-south-east-asia>; Times of India, *ICPF report warns of sharp rise in demand for online child pornography during lockdown*, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/icpf-report-warns-of-sharp-rise-in-demand-for-online-child-pornography-during-lockdown/articleshow/75127399.cms>
- ^{xiv} UNFPA, “*Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage*”, Interim Technical Note, 2020
- ^{xv} Few statistics exist on increases in child marriage in humanitarian settings. However, using the lowest increase documented over the past 15 years, an increase of one-third is possible if prevention measures are not taken. As an estimated 12 million girls are married annually before the age of 18, this would equate to up to four million additional child marriages within the next two years.
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- ^{xxi} For a number of reasons, including the fact that children are often not able to avail themselves to justice systems, violence against children does not typically come to the attention of official agencies. Global evidence reveals that the self-reported prevalence of child sexual abuse victimization is >30 times higher than official reports, and self-reported physical abuse victimization is >75 times higher (Stoltenborgh M, van Ijzendoorn MH, Euser EM, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ., “*A global perspective on child sexual abuse: meta-analysis of prevalence around the world*”, *Child Maltreatment*, 16(2):79–101, 2011; Stoltenborgh M, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ, van Ijzendoorn MH, Alink LRA., “*Cultural-geographical differences in the occurrence of child physical abuse? A meta-analysis of global prevalence*”, *Int J Psychol*, 48(2):81–94, 2013
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^{xxviii} [Argentina](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [Cyprus](#), [India](#), [Lebanon](#), [France](#), [Mexico](#), [Montenegro](#), [Singapore](#), [Spain](#), [United States](#)

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It takes a world
to end violence against children

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

We believe a world without violence against children is possible, and World Vision's global campaign It takes a world to end violence against children is igniting movements of people committed to making this happen. No one person, group or organisation can solve this problem alone, it will take the world to end violence against children.