Cyclone Amphan Update

“Every year, we face cyclones and we need to go to cyclone shelters. This time we didn’t go because of the fear of coronavirus,” said Urmi, 12, whose village is in southern Bangladesh. “The space was crowded, and most people did not have masks. My family took shelter in a school and we found it safer.”

Cyclone Amphan, one of the strongest storms in the Bay of Bengal, in decades, claimed over 100 lives and forced over 3 million people to evacuate to safer areas. The cyclone battered coastal and low-lying areas of Khulan and Barisal division in Bangladesh, and the states of Odisha and West Bengal in India.

An estimated 13 million people are affected in India, and around 2.5 million in Bangladesh. For months, experts have warned against major climate-related disasters during COVID response, and WV has been adapting monsoon season preparedness.

The relief response for Cyclone Amphan will coordinate with WV’s ongoing COVID-19 response in both countries, which has so far reached 2.7 million people, including 1.1 million children. Yet, both countries also recognise operational challenges in this context. Also, even the most minimal impact of Amphan could increase long-term vulnerabilities for the rural poor, given the COVID-19 crisis.

World Vision focus response countries in Asia-Pacific
World Vision response countries in Asia-Pacific
Other World Vision locations

Click here for WorldVision’s COVID-19 response in Afghanistan

People

6,715,994
19,625,107 (indirect)

Children

4,253,741
**OBJECTIVE 1: Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19**

- **4,161,394** People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours
- **1,521,805** Community members provided preventive materials
- **397,519** Handwashing supplies distributed
- **663,817** Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed
- **1,075,271** Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed
- **1,521,805** Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained
- **1,600** Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities
- **7,185** Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated
- **21** Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures
- **2,832** Community members provided preventive materials
- **3,561** Medical facilities assisted

**OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers**

- **5,592** Community health workers trained and supported
- **39,067** Medical personnel provided personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **1,600,717** Masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities
- **406,962** Glove sets distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities
- **75,002** Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities
- **3,646** People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces
- **73** Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up
- **1,376** People provided transportation support

*(Based on figures from 17 countries, as of 22 May 2020)*
OBJECTIVE 3: Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through child protection, education, food security, and livelihoods

- **279,438** People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials
- **9,238** Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning
- **29,983** Students, parents and teachers provided with education support or training
- **74,387** Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education
- **547** Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming

- **US$7,420,515** Cash and voucher assistance distributed
- **487,766** People reached with cash and voucher assistance
- **559,330s** People reached with food security assistance
- **263,375** Children supported with child protection programming

RESOURCES

- Report: [COVID-19 Aftershocks: A perfect storm](#)
- Report: [COVID-19 Aftershocks: Secondary impacts threaten more children’s lives than disease itself](#)
- IEC/BCC Material: [Audio/Video/Graphics community-engagement material to support you fight against COVID-19 in vernacular](#)

SITUATION REPORTS

- [World Vision Global, May 21, 2020](#)
- [World Vision Global, May 14, 2020](#)
- [World Vision Asia-Pacific, May 9, 2020](#)
- [World Vision Asia-Pacific, April 24, 2020](#)
- [World Vision Asia-Pacific, April 18, 2020](#)

Get regular updates about our response:
- [World Vision Asia-Pacific COVID-19 site](#)
- [World Vision Asia-Pacific on Twitter](#)

Homes devastated by Cyclone Amphan in Basanto in a community World Vision serves in India
Stay safe, pray at home: Rohingya imams urge refugee followers to stay home to slow COVID-19 spread

Stories from the frontlines

Rohingya imams in the world’s largest, most densely populated refugee camps in Bangladesh, are urging their followers to pray at home and avoid attending mosques to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

“We know the coronavirus is very dangerous,” says Nur, the imam of Camp 8. “It is spread by coughs, sneezes, colds and contact with infected people. We know that many people are affected and are dying with this virus.”

Mosques in the camps are closed, as well as madrasas—religious schools—in order to ensure children’s safety. Parents ask Nur why their children cannot attend mosque or go to the madrasa. “I tell them that the virus breaks out everywhere. So you can recite the holy Quran at home,” says Nur.

Nur instructs his fellow Rohingyas with verses from the Quran and the Hadith. “Our prophet mentioned 10 things about pandemics. Coronavirus is a pandemic. If there is a pandemic, people should not go anywhere, or should leave that place.”

“Don’t assemble many people at a place. Stay home, call on the Almighty and pray. Now they understand. They now keep their children at home and teach them there.”

Nur says that World Vision WASH teams shared prevention information with him and other imams across the camps.

“World Vision taught us to practice personal hygiene and to wash our hands with soap to save us from the virus,” says Nur. “We wash our hands with soap before touching our eyes, mouths, noses and faces. We also wash our hands properly before eating, cooking and feeding children. Earlier, World Vision also distributed water tanks and soap to our families.”

Faith communities and places of worship are at the centre of community life around the world and play a central role both in guiding people towards behaviour change and provision of spiritual and practical support in times of need. World Vision’s strong relationships with local communities of faith are proving to be critical in preventing misinformation and myths during COVID-19, and supporting delivery of the appropriate health and child protection messaging, and provision of psychosocial support and advocacy.

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* WHO Situation Report #123 | May 22, 2020
** No data for these countries on WHO SitReps
INDONESIA

- Through continuous advocacy and collaboration by WV:
  - The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection has adopted WV’s Guideline on Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP) for COVID-19 response and is planning to roll it out.
  - The Internal Affairs Ministry has released a handbill that instructs local governments to follow WV’s Guidelines in reporting COVID-19 information to ensure that the National Task Force releases COVID-19 numbers with segregated data on children.
- WV is supporting schools in Sentani to prepare distance learning material. WV is also supporting the Ministry of Education in Jayapura, Papua, on promotion of education via distance learning method during COVID-19 pandemic.
- WV supported farmers in Ternate to market their products by linking them to Gojek (delivery service provider), who will update their platform for farmers to put up products online for selling.
- Other health interventions (e.g., PPE distributions to health workers, community sensitisation working with faith leaders), WASH activities, (e.g., setting up of public handwashing stations, distribution of handwashing supplies and IEC materials), child protection initiatives (e.g., child monitoring via CBCP cadres) and food assistance are ongoing.

BANGLADESH

- Through COVID-19 Emergency Response, WV has reached over 2 million people, including over 1 million children.
- The Cyclone Amphan rapid assessment by the Government and WV, in WV operational areas, indicated that about 387,660 people are affected in Shyamnagar, Kaligonj, Koyra, Dacope, Debhata, Rampal, Kachua, and Assasuni.
- WV has initial plan of supporting 6,000 families in the above areas, with focus on Food/CASH, WASH, livelihood and child protection.
- In Cox’s Bazar, WV is working with humanitarian partners to assess the damage in the camps.
- As preparedness, WV staff are geared up for the response work with adequate PPE. The number of staff on the ground for response will be scaled up once the lockdown eases.
- For further details, please read their SitRep.

CHINA

- WV is now in preparation for early recovery rapid assessment, which is expected to complete by the end of May.
- Through the COVID-19 Emergency Response, WV has reached over 1 million people, including around 300,000 children.
- While continuing with its COVID response, WV will also rush emergency relief to 20,000 families in Kolkata and South 24 Parganas district – Basanti and Sunderbans, which are heavily hit by Cyclone Amphan.
- WV will focus on meeting the immediate needs of families though shelter; WASH, hygiene kits and food in the first phase of the response.
- As part of the preparedness, WV staff have been trained and equipped to do cyclone response within the context of COVID-19.
- For further details, please read their SitRep.

INDIA

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Staff at the accountability help desk at a WV distribution centre in Bangladesh get feedback from beneficiaries as they respond to the dual challenge of Cyclone Amphan and COVID-19.
**PHILIPPINES**

- The unconditional cash transfer programmes are going on in 207 villages in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao islands, using LMMS in registration & management of distribution info.
- At least 1,462 households have received cash codes and have started to claim their cash assistance from the nearest local branch of WV's partner financial service provider (FSP). WV conducts direct food package distribution in areas where cash transfer not feasible.
- A total of 19,962 families and frontliners in 8 villages and 7 hospitals were supported with fresh vegetables distribution.
- The number of families supported with family sanitation kits (with masks, alcohol-based disinfectants, soaps, mouthwash, toothbrushes and toothpastes) has increased to 6,530.
- The total population reached with awareness messages on prevention and control of COVID-19 via face-to-face engagement, distribution of EIC materials and programmes with 18 official media partners, has increased to 5.7 million.

**THAILAND**

- WV launched 10 new electronic posters online to raise awareness, disseminate COVID-19 awareness messages and provide knowledge on how to take care of children in emergencies during outbreak. The content also focuses on the care of the mind and emotions and protection of children.
- Over 38,100 people reached via e-posters, while over 7,730 people reached via relevant online events.

**MONGOLIA**

- On World Hand Sanitation Day, WV, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF & WHO, plans to organise a Health Campaign 2020 (facebook.com/MGHygieneCampaign), running from May to September 1, and themed around various hygiene initiatives (e.g. hand washing, garbage clean-up and improving pit latrines.
- WV has collaborated with the largest mobile operator Mobicom to improve water and sanitation facilities for 20 schools.
- WV is supporting Graduation Producer Groups to sew disposable protection clothes for the National Health Center.

**MYANMAR**

- Child protection (CP) case management and parenting guidance during COVID-19 shared with 5133 CP group members (3241 women and 1892 men)
- CP risk assessment conducted in 35 townships to understand new possible CP risks
- WV is supporting children and families affected by six reported CP incidents from three areas with meals and medical assistance.
- Trained 50 front line staff and service providers on psychological first aid to support children facing stress and distress
- WV has advocated with the Department of Social Welfare in Mandalay Region for better collaboration in case management and to ensure that CP services and helplines are available for children during the pandemic.

Youth leaders from Phumen visit a community as part of WV Thailand’s COVID-19 response.
CAMBODIA

• WV distributed 13,845 IEC materials, 118,450 face masks, 8276 litres alcohol-based disinfectants, 60,785 soaps, 471 litres hand sanitiser, 1186 boxes of gloves, 74 thermometers, 1784 hand towels and 169 water tanks and shared awareness messages on COVID-19 in 1370 villages.
• To support distance education, WV distributed 13,037 reading books, 1091 playing toys, 3047 colouring books and 2340 colour pen sets.
• 522 materials on positive parenting were distributed to families. Messages on children protection were shared via radio programme along with messages on positive parenting and psychosocial support to parents/caregivers and children.

LAOS

• WV is preparing for additional rapid assessment for early recovery, especially around protection and education issues.
• WV is now working with communities to prepare for early recovery activities, specifically around Multi-Cash transfer interventions.
• The Rapid Assessment conducted earlier can be found here.

NEPAL

• WV is now preparing for early recovery phase interventions.
• The Early Recovery Rapid Assessment conducted earlier can be found here.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

• WV COVID-19 awareness reaches over 8000 people in a week, targeting some of the largest communities in Port Moresby. Click here link to watch the video on YouTube.

Mobile-linked beneficiary validation as part of World Vision’s Cash and Voucher programming in Philippines.
SOLOMON ISLANDS

- With the support of DFAT, WV worked with communities in Honiara to share information about COVID-19 with children through an informative coloring book. Children between the ages of 3 and 9 were gathered and educated about the nature of the COVID-19 virus, how it travels and what they can do to avoid it from spreading if it reaches our country. This activity aimed at informing children and ensuring that they have hope in the care of their parents during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

SRI LANKA

- WV has partnered with UNICEF to advocate with the Ministry of Education and Presidential Task Force for Education to create online learning platforms, so that all children can have access to educational resources. The Policy Dialogue is underway with the government to include ‘home-based learning’ as a comprehensive formal learning method.
- WV has advocated for safety in schools for children when schools reopen and the need for assistance to ensure psychosocial well-being of children with the support of the National Child Protection Authority. The Ministry of Education has accepted these recommendations.
- The Early Recovery Rapid Assessment conducted earlier can be found here.

TIMOR-LESTE

- WV reached 8088 new people, including 127 people with disabilities. Additionally, 225 COVID-19 prevention banners and 572 new hand-washing stations have been set up in public places.
- 33 sub-villages have been reached with oral prevention messages through megaphones, 572 people have been trained on COVID-19 prevention and 7 health facilities received disinfectant kits.
- WV is conducting rapid needs assessment in two municipalities – Covalima and Aileu. Field staff have been trained to conduct surveys at households and with vendors. The results contribute to the assessment data covering the whole country, under the consortia of FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, WV and Mercy Corps. This study will also form part of WV’s Early Recovery Assessment.

VANUATU

- Awareness messages on COVID-19 prevention, Gender and Protection and WASH, including messages on handwashing, have been shared with community members during distributions, supporting 1036 households.
- Under Cyclone Harold response, WV also distributed 1627 tarpaulins, 351 shelter toolkits, 333 solar lanterns, 2050 blankets, 421 mosquito nets, 799 jerry cans and 189 hygiene kits.

VIETNAM

- WV is focused on development and finalisation of the response plan, and now is in preparation for early recovery rapid assessment in June.

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