



Asia Pacific Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #15 | 02 July 2020

World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 17 countries in the Asia Pacific, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.



COVID-19 Cases: 853,209

COVID-19 Deaths: 26,489

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 15 countries with available data. Source: WHO, 28 June 2020)

COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis, and Asia's children, especially the most vulnerable, are on the brink of severe hunger, increased disease, and physical and emotional safety risks. To better understand the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the lives of vulnerable children in Asia, World Vision conducted a recovery assessment in May, surveying over 14,000 households in nine countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The assessment reveals severe loss of livelihood for the majority of surveyed families, which has concerning effects on food security, nutrition, and child protection. To cope, more than a third of those who responded are borrowing money, while one third have reduced their food intake.

The loss of livelihood is also forcing parents and caregivers to take desperate actions that are negatively impacting the well-being of children, including sending children to relatives, sending them to beg, sending them to work or marrying them off early.

With the loss of income, lack of school, change of behaviour and quarantining, children are being exposed to severe levels of physical and psychological violence. While a fourth of caregivers reported the use of physical or psychological punishment aggression in the last month, more than two-thirds of the children reported that caregivers had used physical or psychological punishment. Meanwhile, nearly half of caregivers conceded that they can't fully handle the changes in their children's behaviour.

Additionally, COVID-19 has put immense pressure on health systems. Access to basic health care has dropped drastically, increasing the risk of child and maternal mortality and morbidity. People reported limited access to essential medicine, as well as a significant increased lack of access to community health facilities and maternal services. The recognition and emergence of mental health issues presents another side of the impact of COVID-19, with a notable portion of people reporting experience with severe stress or mental illness.

Based on the assessments, World Vision field offices are now working on their recovery plans which will focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children, their families and communities, especially among both existing and the newly poor; the urban-to-rural migrants and casual day labourers.

Key Messages



Livelihood programmes must be scaled-up to immediately address the economic insecurity faced by families of vulnerable children.



All efforts must be made to increase access to healthcare.



Child protection systems must be improved and efforts must be made to build the resilience of marginalised and most vulnerable boys and girls.



World Vision is leveraging its convening power, geographic footprint and assessment data to channel significantly more resources to children and communities in need.

People Reached:



8,234,671



Men 2,019,931

Women 2,295,002

Children 3,919,738



Boys 1,983,142

Girls 1,936,596

(Based on figures as of 26 June 2020)



RESPONSE GOAL

To limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families

Strategic Objectives



1. Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of disease



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



3. Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

OBJECTIVE 1: Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19



4,377,777

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



1,392,302

Information, education, and communication materials printed and



1,977,011

Community members provided preventive materials



483,526

Handwashing supplies distributed



764,813

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



3,138

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



8,387

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



98

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



3,350

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 26 June 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



8,881

Community health workers trained and supported



61,517

Medical personnel provided personal protective equipment (PPE)



1,886,214

Masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities



519,380

Glove sets distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities



2,971

Medical facilities assisted



97,853

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



5,329

People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces



222

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



1,376

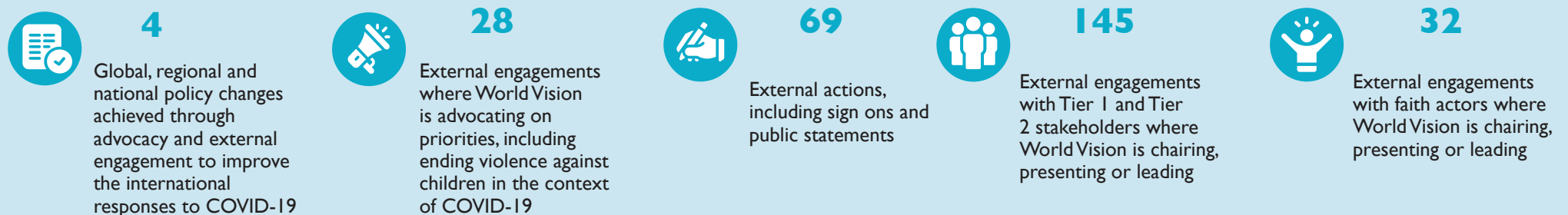
People provided transportation support

(Based on figures as of 26 June 2020)

OBJECTIVE 3: Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through child protection, education, food security, and livelihoods



OBJECTIVE 4: Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected



*Examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders include WFP, WHO, Global Fund, UNICEF, UNHRC, UNOCHA, and national governments

(Based on figures as of 26 June 2020)

Beating hunger amidst the pandemic

Stories from the frontlines

"I remember coming home one day to find my younger son having a high fever. I was scared I would lose him," recalls Sum.

Sum is a single mother struggling to raise her three children: Odom (12), Doeurn (10) and Doung (8). Her long hours at work left her with little time to spend with her children. Her income was not enough to pay the rent and provide good food for herself and her children. Sum also had to send money to care for her father's treatment.

"It's difficult being a mother and a father at the same time; it's such a big responsibility," says Sum. After the divorce, Sum left with her three children and tried finding a job as a factory worker.

Later, Sum and her children moved to Phnum Proek to take care of her father until he passed away. "I was hopeless and thinking about suicide since I had nothing but my three sons," says Sum. Luckily, she was allowed to live on free land, a little distance from the community.

"I work even harder than a man does earning money and taking care of my children," says Sum. In Phnom Proek, Sum worked seasonally in a rice field. She accepted the job because it enabled her to return home in the evening so that she has time with the children. Life was just getting back to normal for Sum, when COVID-19 struck.

Although Cambodia has a relatively small number of infections compared to its neighboring countries, Cambodia's economy is struggling like many in the world. There are many people unemployed; most vulnerable children and families have been affected; especially their livelihood.

Through information and education from home visits by World Vision staff and awareness programmes, Sum's family and many

others have learned tips on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 by practicing good personal-hygiene. "A mask is more expensive than the 1 kg of rice. I cannot afford it. It was helpful to get the mask from World Vision and the training as well," says Sum.

Jobs have become hard to find. To survive, Sum and her children looked for food in the nearby forest. "The days when food was not affordable, we had only rice as our meal, and it took a few days to replenish our supplies. We were down to the last bit of rice in our rice-jar, just enough to make porridge, when we received World Vision's support. We can now survive," says Sum, getting emotional about the support provided.

WorldVision, as part of the COVID-19 response in Cambodia, provided the family with an emergency food kit consisting of 25kg of rice, a box of noodles, canned fish, salt, vegetable oil, soy sauce and fish sauce.

The children joyfully carried the food home.

"I want to eat noodles for dinner," says Odom. Doeurn and his younger also agree and smile and give the noodle to their mother to make at home. "I will eat two plates of rice too," says Doeurn.

During this period of unemployment, the support provided by World Vision helps vulnerable children and their families to beat hunger.





BANGLADESH

- In the the first phase of the emergency response from April to June 2020, World Vision directly supported a total of 2,879,000 people, including 1,367,000 children.
- World Vision successfully completed cash & voucher support via Last Mile Mobile Solution and Mobile Money Transfer in all of its working areas. A total of USD 10,187,152 was distributed as cash and voucher grants to 262,878 people.
- World Vision completed a recovery assessment, with participation from 2761 households, 1616 children and 273 key stakeholders. A brief summary of the findings can be accessed [here](#).



Bangladesh: Morjina checks her phone for a message to receive the unconditional cash grant given by World Vision to families of vulnerable children.



CAMBODIA

- World Vision continues its hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness campaign in 1416 villages, reaching over 840,000 people, including over 326,000 children.
- World Vision completed a recovery assessment, with participation from 222 households, 238 children and 42 key stakeholders. The summary brief of the findings can be accessed [here](#).



CHINA

- World Vision has reached a total of 1,217,415 people, including 792,500 children. In June, World Vision supported preventive behaviour messaging & monitored floods situation in China.



INDIA

- World Vision continues its cash and voucher programming in communities across India, targeting 90,000 families with US\$ 1,405,023. These cash transfers and commodity vouchers enable families to access necessary daily items and in many cases, help revive their livelihood that suffered major setbacks during the lockdown.
- World Vision is now finalising the findings of its recovery assessment, which has participation from 5,668 households, 5,595 children and 1032 key stakeholders.



INDONESIA

- In collaboration with faith leaders and the local government in Nias, World Vision organised radio broadcasts on topics related to stopping stigma.
- World Vision organised an online forum on "Challenges and Best Practices Home Learning in Remote Areas", which was joined by the Education Ministry, Landak District Government, and Head of Education in Papua and Nada.
- World Vision advocated for the voices of indigenous children of Papua to be heard and successfully lobbied with the Child Protection Ministry to include the voice of Papuans indigenous children in the Indonesia Children's National Celebration.
- World Vision co-led the preparation of advocacy messages on "sexual violence judicial process to budget for victims in COVID-19 situation", which will be sent to the Supreme Court Institution.
- World Vision continues to distribute PPE and health and hygiene materials to health workers and communities, as well set up public handwashing stations to promote preventive behaviour.
- World Vision is currently finalising the findings of its recovery assessment, which has participation from 900 households, 943 children and 15 key stakeholders.



LAOS

- World Vision successfully completed the first phase of emergency response from April to June 2020, directly supporting a total of 59,000 people from 9 districts, including 25,300 children.
- World Vision completed a recovery assessment, with participation from 214 households and 72 children. The summary of the findings can be accessed [here](#).



Mongolia: Children participate in interviews as part of a global children's consultation to explore the impact of COVID-19 on their lives.



MONGOLIA

- World Vision is now supporting renovation of WASH facilities in 21 schools in rural remote areas that are prone to infectious disease, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.
- World Vision supported Graduation Producer Groups to sew 800 disposable protection clothes for the National Health Center. Similar income generation support will continue, with 12 producer groups hired for WASH and PPE-sewing projects, 6 groups hired for household toilet construction activities and 4 groups hired for sewing of disposable clothes for health workers.
- World Vision conducted child monitoring via phone calls, with follow-up actions on identified cases of child protection and proper case management working with district AFCYD.
- World Vision supported Chatbox counselling service, collaborating with professional psychologists from the Department of Family, Children and Youth. The service operates 24/7 and became effective on 02 June 2020. In just one week, 63 chat connections were made by both children and adults. The identified cases were referred to Child Helpline 108 for further services when required.
- World Vision is now finalising the findings of its recovery assessment, which has participation from 489 households, 47 children and 122 key stakeholders.



MYANMAR

- World Vision has supported 499,240 people so far, including 227,780 children. The June infographic summary can be found [here](#).
- World Vision is now finalising the findings of its recovery assessment, which has participation from 767 households, 386 children and 433 key stakeholders.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- World Vision is finalising its recovery assessment, which indicates needs for market revival and gaps in education, WASH and livelihood interventions.
- World Vision collaborated with MSF & National Capital District Provincial Health Authority to conduct a two-day COVID-19 preparedness workshop for health workers. Attendants gave a positive response about the programme. Further details can be found [here](#).



NEPAL

- World Vision completed the recovery assessment, with participation from 836 households, 813 children and 126 key stakeholders. The summary brief of the findings can be accessed [here](#).
- World Vision continues to do case management on protection cases, including child marriage and sexual abuse.
- World Vision is airing a radio program nationwide named "Hamro Ghar Hamro Pathshala" to support distant learning of 104,000 children during lockdown; while 780 sets of reading materials were distributed to children in Udaypur, Sindhuli and Lamjung.
- 4,370 households in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Udayapur, Morang, Sarlahi, Kailali and Bajhangreached were supported with the distribution of food packages, while 214 children in 4 child care homes were also provided with food assistance.
- 1,151 hygiene kits were distributed in Kathmandu, Sarlahi, Kailali & Doti, while 3 handwashing corners were set up in Sindhuli.



PHILIPPINES

- To further enhance IPC measures, family sanitation kits with hand hygiene IEC materials were distributed in all response locations, benefitting 6,572 families.
- To support children with severe and moderate, acute malnutrition, 30,000 packets of micronutrients supplementation and ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) was provided to local health facilities in 6 municipalities. 438 health kits were also distributed in 9 local health facilities and to 219 families.
- World Vision distributed a total of 58 metric tons of assorted fresh vegetables to 91,711 people, including families, children from orphanages, youth from rehabilitation centres and frontline workers from 18 referral hospitals, 6 orphanages and 1 youth rehabilitation centre in Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro City Davao City and Cebu City.
- 14,126 foods packs were distributed in 22 municipalities, supporting 64,980 people.
- 12,147 families were provided with unconditional cash assistance, of which 81% received it directly from the nearest branch of World Vision's partner financial service provider via cash codes.
- World Vision is now finalising the findings of its recovery assessment, which has participation from 423 households and 422 children.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

- World Vision is now focusing on responding to Cyclone Harold, with COVID-19 awareness messaging incorporated in the response programme.
- World Vision organised a two-day training workshop for church representatives in Weather-coast of northeast Guadalcanal in Honiara under a COVID-19 rural community response and preparedness project.
- Supported by the NBSI Health and Welfare Trust, World Vision is working closely with 17 targeted community churches in Temotu, south Malaita and Weather-coast of northeast Guadalcanal. These churches are trained and equipped to support possible COVID-19 outbreak in communities, including rolling immediate measures to prevent disease transmission and increase awareness of COVID-19 issues (e.g. social distancing, general health and hygiene knowledge and practices). A WASH community response kit is given to each church and they will be supported to make links with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, so that they are alerted when a case is confirmed and can take a kit to any affected household, as an early response.



SRI LANKA

- World Vision continues to provide PPE, testing kits and lab equipment and hygiene and disinfectant kits for families, health workers and health institutions to support preventive measures.
- World Vision partnered with Citi Foundation to support the development of home-gardens to improve food security in households.
- World Vision supported positive parenting awareness programmes for parents and primary caregivers.
- World Vision conducted National Children's Consultation Programme with the participation of 550 children, in partnership with the National Action and Coordination Group (NACG) Sri Lanka. Children presented their views and concerns directly, via a TV programme "COVID-19 in the eyes of children" to high-level duty bearers, who responded and agreed to resolve the issues raised.



THAILAND

- Apart from providing PPE, health and hygiene materials to community health volunteers, children and families, World Vision focuses on the needs of migrant communities.
- World Vision supports migrant communities to produce 2,120 pieces of fabric masks, by providing sewing materials, while training volunteer migrant workers to educate 5,831 migrants and children on COVID-19 prevention via door-to-door family visit.
- 42 hand washing points were set up in migrant communities, with liquid soap for 229 adults and 145 children. 386 Burmese posters on COVID-19 prevention were also distributed.
- World Vision launched an additional 3 electronic posters online to raise awareness around preparation for school reopening and care for mental health. Over 7,750 people have been reached.



Thailand: A family explores learning material that prepares children for when schools reopens.



TIMOR-LESTE

- World Vision supported over 41,000 people so far, including 19,800 children in Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro and Covalima. A significant portion of those supported are adults and children with disabilities.
- World Vision is concluding its recovery assessment and post-distribution monitoring. It was observed that 100% of respondents were satisfied with the support from World Vision, and 95% of respondents agreed that World Vision's COVID-19 interventions were timely to meet the community's needs.



VANUATU

- World Vision is now focusing on responding to Cyclone Harold with COVID-19 awareness messaging incorporated in the response programme. Details can be accessed [here](#).



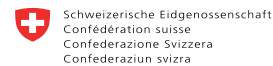
VIETNAM

- World Vision organised online campaign activities on preventing violence against children and promoting family connection during COVID-19. A writing contest on "Hidden Heroes" was conducted to promote community awareness towards child protection, while a social challenge was organised to facilitate positive parenting behaviour change of caretakers.
- Printed and distributed 203,721 IEC materials (leaflets, posters) on COVID-19 prevention and handwashing, and 59,712 handbook and leaflets on child protection, mainly around stress management for parents and children during COVID-19 and children safety.

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