



“To keep ourselves clean is a part of our Iman (belief). Now, in my free time I aware the community people about coronavirus pandemic and I teach them how to wash hands properly. I also advise the people to abide by government rules such as to stay and pray at home.”

-Kuddus, an Imam and Community Hope and Action Team member

### Number of Cases (as of 16 April)

1,572 cases, 60 deaths and 49 recoveries officially reported in this country of 165 million people.

Source: Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh

### Country Overview

Some 20 government test labs opened across the country and 4,500 beds are ready for COVID-19 patients. The national lock-down has been extended to 25 April. All operations of World Vision development programmes are on hold, with an anticipated launch of our COVID-19 response on 19 April.

World Vision obtained government permission for its Bangladesh-wide response plan, which includes a strong focus on the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The plan will aim to reduce, prevent and control the transmission of COVID-19, supporting up to 2.5 million vulnerable people (567,000 HHs) in our current programme areas.

### Gaps and Challenges

Movement in communities continues to be restricted due to lock-downs, which is limiting full programme implementation. The working poor in rural and urban areas are suffering job losses and are leaving their homes to find work, putting themselves and others at risk of contracting the virus.

Currently, 369 World Vision staff and facilitators continue to provide critical services in the world's largest refugee camp that is home to almost 1 million Rohingya people. Activities are restricted to food assistance, WASH and nutrition. If humanitarian access further narrows, our 577 Rohingya volunteers in the camps will prove more essential than ever to continuing life-saving services.

### Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

World Vision reached 33,870 children with prevention messages using its extensive existing networks and coalitions that maximized social media and digital platforms to get the word out.

World Vision plans to engage 460 additional Rohingya women as paid volunteers to support their communities if the camps become completely inaccessible to humanitarians for a time. These leading mothers are recent graduates from our 18-month informal course on hygiene, nutrition and child protection and more that is offered in our 42 community cooking and learning centres.

### Advocacy

#### New Report: *Children's Voice in Times of COVID-19*

More than 100 child leaders from 13 countries, including Bangladesh, were interviewed for this World Vision report that seeks to better understand what children and young people want to do in this time of crisis and how they can be supported, equipped, and encouraged.

**Joining Forces Bangladesh:** Six leading INGOs in Bangladesh, including World Vision, are urging the Government of Bangladesh to scale up COVID-19 prevention and response measures for children and their families. The agencies appealed to the government to ensure that the well-being of most vulnerable children are not compromised.

**Internet access needed to save lives:** World Vision joined 25 fellow INGOs in calling on the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to re-establish internet and mobile communications in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and in Rakhine state so residents can access life-saving COVID-19 prevention information. Internet services were shut down in the camps in September 2019 in Bangladesh. In Myanmar, nine conflict-affected townships across Rakhine and Chin states have been without mobile internet access since February 2020, with four townships blocked since April 2019.



# COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights



**651,372**  
beneficiaries reached to date



**491,736**  
children reached



**\$17.2 million**  
total budget

## OBJECTIVE 1: Promote preventative measures to stop or slow COVID-19 spread



**388,849**  
people reached with prevention hygiene information.



**1,219**  
community handwashing stations established, maintained.



**77,689**  
information/education materials printed, distributed.



**1,009**  
faith leaders engaged to disseminate prevention measures, create hope.

## OBJECTIVE 2: Support health systems and workers



**778**  
community health workers trained, supported to provide services.

## OBJECTIVE 3: Provide children and families with multi-sector support



**34,553**  
people children and families reached with psychosocial support.



**USD999,298**  
total amount of cash/vouchers distributed.



**25,826**  
households receiving cash disbursements/vouchers.



**6,952**  
food packages provided.



**20,625**  
new children reached with targeted age-specific health education.



**717**  
people (children and family members) supported to continue child's education remotely (eg. home-learning materials, activity packs).

