

### Country Overview

**Government restrictions:** Public gatherings during iftar (evening fast-breaking meal) will not be permitted during this holy month of Ramadan. Evening mosque prayers are limited to 12 people at a time. All educational institutions will tentatively remain closed until September.

The government is appointing 2,000 more physicians and 6,000 nurses for the COVID-19 response. According to the Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation, 500 doctors are infected with COVID-19 "with more than two doctors are being infected every hour." The government also plans to provide smart Quick Response cards to nearly 12.5 million vulnerable families to ensure proper distribution of food aid.

World Vision's COVID-19 response will support up to 2.5 million vulnerable people (567,000 households) in our current programme areas. Distribution of hygiene kits and personal protection equipment is scheduled to begin next week following an ease in the month-long lock-down regulations, announced this week.

### Advocacy

Dola, age 17, is a young Bangladeshi leader known for her successful advocacy work to end child marriage. She spoke during a Webex panel discussion this week at the launch of WVI's report, Children's Voices in Times of COVID-19. Najat Maalla M'jid, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, also joined the international event.

Hundreds of Rohingya refugees remain stranded in two trawlers in the Bay of Bengal. They have been at sea for weeks without adequate food and water.



**“Rumours can spread here in the camp easily. There is a rumour that we Rohingya refugees won't be affected. But that's nonsense. A disease can spread and infect everyone. If people aren't aware of this, they will be affected and suffer a huge loss.”**

**- Nur, Rohingya faith leader.**

### Gaps and Challenges

One of the world's worst cyclone-prone countries, Bangladesh faces small-to –large-scale calamities from April-May and from September-December annually, posing further risk to people already made vulnerable by the COVID-19 crisis. In this pre-monsoon season, dengue fever outbreaks may further constrain the fragile health system focused on fighting COVID-19. Manpower shortages during the current lockdown have hampered anti-mosquito drives. A massive dengue outbreak in 2020 hospitalised 101,354 people.

The lack of designated medical services in Cox's Bazar for thousands of NGO aid workers serving the Rohingya refugee camps and host communities is a dire concern. World Vision is collaborating with other NGOs to find workable solutions.

### Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

World Vision will provide livelihoods/multi-purpose cash grants to 32,300 households. Teams completed market assessments in 56 area programme locations this week. They examined the feasibility of cash and commodities in the local market, production flow and stock availability, price fluctuations, community market accessibility, and availability/capacity of financial service providers.

### Number of Cases (as of 30 April)

7,667 cases, 168 deaths and 160 recoveries officially reported (Population: 165 million).

Source: Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Bangladesh



# COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights



**1.2 million**

beneficiaries reached to date

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



**703,356**

people reached with prevention hygiene information.



**17,607**

people received handwashing supplies (soap, bucket).



**1,224**

community handwashing stations established, maintained.



**1,237**

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.



**568,466**

children reached

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



**53,936**

people children and families reached with prevention information.



**USD2,735,698**

value of cash/vouchers distributed.



**76,759**

individuals receiving cash disbursements/vouchers.



**6,530**

individuals receiving family support packages.



**27,967**

children reached with targeted age-specific health education.



**106,304**

children supported with child protection programming.



**USD 10 million**

targeted budget

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



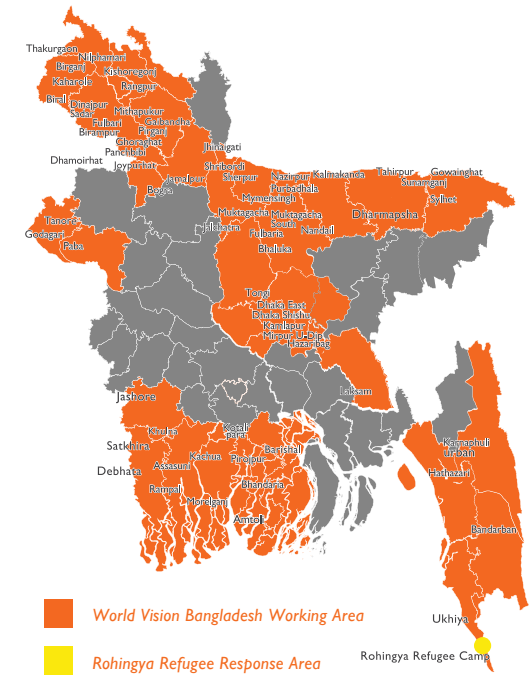
**93** “It takes a world to end violence against children” campaign actions undertaken to prevent violence against children as a result of COVID-19.



**5** World Vision reports highlighted and referenced by stakeholders.



**18** strategic partnerships with stakeholders established.





## Area Programmes

The health and safety of the 150,000 registered children in our programmes remains a priority. A [recent government assessment](#), to which World Vision contributed, revealed that Bangladeshi children are suffering from the effects of extended lock-downs, such as school closures.



59% households surveyed had school-going children.



60% of respondents indicated no regular communication from schools about learning continuity.



42% had not heard of any remote-based education activities.



38% parents indicated no continuous educational support to children in lockdown.

World Vision staff are in touch with children in our programmes and their families across the country. They are contacting families by mobile phone, providing them with life-saving hygiene promotion information. Almost 13,200 families have been supported with child protection programmes, linking them with social workers and other services, as possible.

### For more information, contact

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## Rohingya Refugee Response/ Cox's Bazar Special Zone

**ABC Australia Radio Interview:** Rachel Wolff, Senior Response Director, describes how World Vision is ramping up COVID-19 prevention activities in the world's largest, most densely populated refugee camp—home to 850,000 Rohingya Muslims.

**Equipping faith leaders:** Imams are the most respected, trusted leaders in the Rohingya refugee camps. For more than two years, World Vision has trained and engaged them in child protection committees, parents' groups and gender-based violence prevention. Today, they are working to combat [fear, stigma and misinformation](#) around COVID-19, with World Vision's support.

**Life-saving nutrition support:** 1,500 children under age 5, and 250 pregnant and lactating women continue to receive supplementary feeding at our five nutrition centres, operated in partnership with WFP and UNICEF. The programme aims to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition.

According to a [recent ACAPS study](#), almost half of the refugee population are living below the poverty line with the humanitarian assistance currently provided and 45% have borderline or poor food consumption scores. This implies that general immunity status is predicted to be lower than the general population, making them more susceptible to COVID-19.

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## Nobo Jatra—New Beginning USAID's Development Food Security Activity



404 staff members, facilitators and partner agencies (World Food Programme, Winrock International) participated in a virtual training on Nobo Jatra's COVID-19 response. Topics included implementation guidelines, health and safety, gender equality and integration, monitoring, accountability and communications.



177 facilitators are using mobile phones to reach mothers and caregivers of children under age 5 with COVID-19 awareness messages, as well as health and nutrition counselling.



131 village development committees are supporting COVID-19 awareness efforts at the union and ward level in coordination with local government administrations.



44 staff members are reaching 200 farmers mobile phone to advise them on planting, harvesting and marketing given the current market situation.

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