After a 66-day closure, government and private offices reopened on 31 May. Public transport (buses, trains) were launched and domestic flights resumed. With COVID-19 cases rising, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) started enforcing a pilot-based, zone lockdown system, designating small areas for specific interventions that include lockdowns. Government is using colour-codes (red, yellow and green) to show infection rates.

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Country Overview

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Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

- Use of bulk SMS messages to reach a large number of children and their families with hygiene messages.
- World Vision has sent bulk SMS texts to 143,346 people to date.

"Poor people in my community could not afford to buy masks. I started making them to sell at a very low price, and I gave masks free to the very needy."

--Akhi, 17, former child labourer assisted by World Vision.

Gaps and Challenges

In our COVID-19 response, World Vision is working with six partner organisations, enhancing their capacity on the use of advanced technologies, such as Last Mile Mobile Solution, which is used for the distribution of cash, hygiene kits, etc. Using these new tools is effective, but getting acquainted with them takes time and effort.

Advocacy

World Vision has launched a global petition calling on governments and institutions to increase funding to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse. This was after a new World Vision report titled COVID-19 Aftershocks—A Perfect Storm, indicated that COVID-19 would put 85 million more children at risk. The national office has set a target of at least 30,000 online signatures by 30 June 2020.

COVID-19 is rising in the Rohingya refugee camps, with 35 confirmed cases and three deaths to date. However, refugees are avoiding being tested for fear they will be forced to remain in an isolation centre if positive, separated from family. Rumours and misinformation are circulating in the camps about how the virus is spread. Reaching the community with health information is challenging given the low literacy rate among adults. Audio internet-based materials is the most effective way to communicate, but Wifi services were cut off to the camps last year. World Vision and other NGOs continue to advocate that the ban on internet services be lifted to help save lives.
**COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights**

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

- **972,700** people reached with prevention hygiene information.
- **12,684** people received prevention materials (hand sanitizer, soap, masks).
- **51,740** handwashing supplies (soap, buckets) distributed.
- **2,235** community-level public handwashing stations established.
- **651,623** comprehensive hygiene kits distributed.
- **1,302** faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention information.

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

- **1,370** medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment in health facilities.

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

- **474,974** face masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and caregivers. (This period.)
- **613** health facilities assisted, including hospital, clinics.
- **462** disinfectant kits distributed to health facilities.

**Beneficiaries Reached**

- **1,52 million** beneficiaries reached

**Children Reached**

- **668,951** children reached

**Registered Children**

- **150,000** registered children

**Targeted Budget**

- **USD10 million**

**Note:** Cumulative totals to date unless otherwise noted.
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Area Programmes

“I dream that one day my school will re-open, and I will go to school with my best friend. I recall the days when we used to talk and laugh together under the banyan tree of our school. I miss my favorite bench in the fourth row of the classroom and my favorite math class a lot,” says Mohanta, 11, a World Vision registered child.

For more than two months, schools in Bangladesh have been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most children living in vulnerable families have little or no access to online classes. A reported 38% of parents indicated that their children received no continuous educational support during lockdown, according to COVID-19: Bangladesh Multi-Sectoral Anticipatory Impact and Needs Analysis.

World Vision has supported 1,527 vulnerable children with education supplies so they can continue learning after being forced to leave school.

Rohingya Refugee Response/ Cox’s Bazar Special Zone

COVID-19 lockdown measures reduced the number of World Vision field staff who could access the camps last month. To ensure that critical programmes continued, teams trained 56 Rohingya lead mothers who reached 1,391 fellow refugees through 276 health and hygiene sessions on COVID-19 prevention, nutrition, and GBV awareness, as well as monsoon and cyclone preparedness.

3,087 mothers and caregivers were also trained how to assess their children’s nutritional status by measuring their middle upper arm circumference (MUAC). Mothers can bring their children to clinics if need be. The home self-testing reduces the need for nutrition teams to conduct regular door-to-door screening for malnutrition, which could potentially spread COVID-19.

79 staff were oriented in COVID-19 psychological first aid.

Nobo Jatra—New Beginning

USAID’s Development Food Security Activity

7,700 households and 1,115 USAID-supported health-service delivery points received sanitation kits (soap, detergent, buckets).

4,000 households and local businesses are benefiting from safe drinking water provided by 10 reverse-osmosis water plants built by World Vision. During the COVID-19 pandemic, water sales have increased in all reverse-osmosis plants. Communities can access a regular supply of safe water at this critical time when they are already struggling with the double impact of COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan, which damaged many area water sources.

100 COVID-19 awareness billboards, which include messages on gender-based violence prevention, were set up across all four sub-districts in the programme area. Some 20,000 posters were also distributed in communities and health-service delivery points.

Educational support materials help children to keep learning during lockdowns.

Rohingya mothers conduct hands-on health and hygiene sessions.

COVID-19 prevention information is reaching communities.