



Asia Pacific Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #18 | 13 August 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 2,777,910 COVID-19 Deaths: 59,453

World Vision Asia-Pacific's <u>early recovery assessment</u> <u>report</u> has received a lot of interest among various stakeholders, triggering a series of webinars that are being organised. External regional webinars are being planned, in collaboration with UN agencies and other external stakeholders, to highlight assessment results primarily focusing on the loss of livelihood, social and child protection issues. World Vision is also working to bring these key findings from Asia to heads of UN agencies at the global level.

Livelihood will be the lead focus of World Vision's recovery planning, since it has a significant impact on other sectors, including access to basic services and protection. World Vision's assessment report highlights the need to support micro, small, and medium enterprises to achieve business continuity through flexible finance.

The universal access to affordable housing, healthcare, child protection, education, social protection for the most vulnerable is also of paramount importance. Field offices are also supporting sustainable income generation opportunities for the urban poor in national and local development plans beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 17 countries. Source: WHO, 10 Aug 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.



(Based on figures as of 10 August 2020)

Key Messages

Stakeholders should invest in and leverage faith-based responses and economic recovery programmes that put seed capital in the hands of vulnerable households.

All stakeholders, including NGOs, government and donors must work together to support a green and resilient recovery, as the window for incorporating climate adaption and resilience building, into COVID-19 recovery planning is short.

With the start of the monsoon season, countries should be prepared to handle major climaterelated disasters during COVID-19 response and recovery.

Highlights

World Vision Asia Pacific uses a range of traditional and innovative approaches to engage with communities and share knowledge on COVID-19. Especially in restricted settings, WorldVision aims to reach the most vulnerable, including people with disabilities, children, and communities who may not have access to the internet or digital devices. Each approach is contextualised to increase the impact of the messaging. The impacts and experiences are captured in online <u>case studies</u>.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Highlights





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

0	578,979 People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials	134,053 Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning		135,814 People provided with education support or training		171,867 Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education		801 Teachers provided with education training and support
3	US\$16,986,775 Cash and voucher assistance distributed	I,155,329 People reached with cash and voucher assistance	0	1,068,617 People reached with food security assistance	()	333,037 Children supported with child protection programming		10,092 Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming
(401 Individuals supported with livelihoods training	6,326 Households provided livelihoods assets					(Based on fig	gures as of 10 August 2020)

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



Continuing children's education in the midst of COVID-19 Stories from the frontlines

Nexi, I 2, is both excited and nervous for school possibly opening this month. Last March, her most anticipated graduation was held online to keep her and other students protected. She was the valedictorian.

"I was hoping I could walk on the stage with my parents as we receive my award. Sadly, COVID-19 prevented that from happening. But I understand it's for our safety. I'm just happy that I can be in Grade 7 this year;" she shares.

Nexi still prefers face-to-face learning. Nothing beats sharing stories or doing assignments with her close friends, she said. The pandemic has affected more than 20 million learners across the Philippines. With cases of coronavirus still rising, students may still not be able to physically go to their schools. Authorities say that face-to-face classess will be postponed until there is a vaccine for COVID-19. Instead, distance or blended learning which explores different lesson delivery outside traditional methods will be implemented. The use of radio,TV, online and modular learning will be maximised.

Online learning requires gadgets, and a steady internet connection

In a recent assessment conducted by World Vision in 21 provinces of the Philippines, 89% of the children respondents expressed their concerns about online learning. The study also showed that 46% of the households surveyed do not have access to internet.

"I do not have the gadgets I need. My mother has a cell phone but I don't think that's enough. I have a sister who is also studying and who I have to share the gadget with in case we go for distance learning," Nexi shares.

Poor to no internet connection is also a concern for Nexi and her family. Her father's work as a construction worker was disrupted because of the imposed community quarantine. "We can barely provide for our daily meals. We have a lot of debts to pay because my husband has been out of work for months now. We do not have money to spare for better internet," explains Catherine, Nexi's mother.

Learning should not stop

Acknowledging the concerns of both parents and students like Nexi, the education department of the Philippines said that in places where there is no access to digital technology, schools will provide students with printed modules.

"World Vision supports this initiative of the department of education. We have to find ways to ensure that children's learning is not further disrupted by the pandemic," says Geomel

Jetonzo, Education Manager of World Vision in the Philippines.

Aligned to this, World Vision, in partnership with the department of education officially launched the Abutin Na10 campaign, an initiative that aims to raise funds to help provide necessary gadgets and printed modules to at least 10 million students across the country.

Aside from this, World Vision is also supporting the agency's learning continuity plan by assisting in the digitisation of reading materials while classroom learning is not yet possible. These materials will be uploaded on DepEd Commons, a free online resource for students and teachers. World Vision has also started distributing learner's kits to children who need them.

As for Nexi, no matter what the mode of learning is, she's determined to do her best. "I know there will be challenges when we start our classes but I will still do my best. I want to study well so that I can be an engineer someday," she shares.





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