



COVID-19 Emergency Response

Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #11 | 13 August 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 726,593

COVID-19 Deaths: 13,785

The virus continues to spread with a linear daily increment as most of the countries in East, Southern and West Africa relax their confinement measures - schools and markets are reopening, public gatherings are resuming. World Vision is concerned by the increasing risk of a wider transmission and appeals for the intensification of prevention measures and support to health systems for mass testing and surveillance.

World Vision is also concerned by the reported increase in gender-based violence as the economic challenges set in and appeals to national governments and donors to protect ongoing humanitarian and development assistance for the most vulnerable as there is a growing risk that other health issues - malaria, HIV and AIDS, and immunization of children - may be de-prioritised.

COVID-19 induced economic challenges have come at a time when the region is at the crossroads of multiple disasters ranging from conflict, climate shocks, pests - locust invasion, Fall Army Worm - and social challenges, such as high unemployment and endemic poverty that put millions in need of humanitarian assistance. World Vision appeals for increased investments to support critical lifesaving interventions and recovery initiatives.

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 26 countries. Source:WHO, 10 Aug 2020)



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 26 countries in Africa, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.



People Reached*:

22,601,902

Men 6,257,261 **Women 6,860,461**

Children 9,500,083

Boys 4,582,153 **Girls 4,917,930**

**people reached figures are lower than previously reported due to corrections in counting methodology*

(Based on figures as of 10 August 2020)

Key Messages



World Vision is concerned about the impact that the COVID-19 health crisis will have on the poorest and most vulnerable, and the risk it poses to already stretched basic social services and pre-existing high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This is especially the case amongst refugee and internally displaced populations.



We are active on the ground and scaling up our prevention and response work across Africa, including in fragile contexts. The coronavirus response comes on top of climate change effects such as recurrent drought, torrential floods and locust invasions – all destroying crops and livelihoods. Estimates indicate that 115 million people will require food assistance across the African continent¹. Response work includes preventing loss of progress made towards the global Sustainable Development Goals.



While Africa is yet to reach the peak of COVID-19 case-loads, World Vision's response will be focusing its efforts on recovery, especially livelihood interventions. Financial and technical resources will be required to support recovery.



World Vision urges the world to focus on the most vulnerable children, especially those living in communities with low access or weak health systems, and those already battling conditions such as tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and malaria. They must not be left behind and funding for COVID-19 resources must not be diverted from their treatment, care and support.



World Vision is concerned with the increased incidences of violence against children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and warns of the long-term risk of increased child marriage and child labour. We urge governments to ensure continued functioning of child-friendly reporting mechanisms such as SOS hotlines to enable children's protection.

¹Southern Africa Preliminary Multisectoral Analysis, RIASCO – 9 July 2020, and FAO-WFP Analysis of acute food insecurity hotspots July 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



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



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

OBJECTIVE 1: Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of disease



11,862,687

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



1,241,531

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



2,234,371

Community members provided with preventive materials



710,360

Handwashing supplies distributed



157,908

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



69,203

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



63,922

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



33,752

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



60,801

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 10 August 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



76,119

Community health workers trained and supported



62,916

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



2,095,049

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



1,778,681

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



4,888

Medical facilities assisted



111,182

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



33,063

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



393

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



4,205

People provided with transportation support

(Based on figures as of 10 August 2020)

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

BURUNDI

- Continued support to vulnerable communities through cash transfer for the provision of immunity-boosting foods for malnourished children who are at higher risk during COVID-19.

ETHIOPIA

- Leading a Safe Schools Reopening task group that is drafting guidelines for regional education bureaus on the reopening of schools and educational institutions. Suggestions in the guidelines are expected to influence policy changes on the use and application of digital platforms for teaching purposes at schools, and offer further direction for online learning and examination for students at universities. The Ministry of Education organised a meeting with involved NGO stakeholders to discuss these guidelines and chart a way forward.

KENYA

- Joint efforts with faith leaders to reach children and families within World Vision's operation areas during the pandemic. Activities from the reporting period include:
 - Supporting children's learning through radio programs in Kakuma refugee camp.
 - Door-to-door sensitisation on COVID-19 prevention.
 - Awareness spreading led by faith leaders in townships.
 - Continued integration of COVID-19 prevention messages into sermons and religious teachings
- World Vision continues to make contributions to policy changes on COVID-19 guidelines for care of children in Kenya. In collaboration with partners, World Vision is also contributing to policy changes on COVID-19 community health response minimum standards, and guidelines on continued provision of community health services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RWANDA

- Participated and provided input in review of national education policy on mechanisms for coping under the current situation.
- Broadcast of informative radio drama series supported by World Vision to promote an end to violence against children. Over 24,629 people shared positive views and feedback through calls, SMS and social media; acknowledging that the shows raise important issues on what people need to know about what child abuse is, what one can do to prevent it, and where to report cases if they occur.

SOMALIA

- With raised concerns over the spread of COVID-19 in especially remote areas, World Vision has continued to support the Government's testing strategy by increasing the number of GeneXpert cartridges.
- Held discussions with the Ministry of Religious Affairs on the use of video series produced by World Vision in collaboration with the Somalia Resilience Programme (SOMREP) Innovation Lab to create awareness and address various challenges that children and their families are facing as a result of COVID-19.

SOUTH SUDAN

- World Vision's partnership with WFP and Royal Aid for Development (ROAD) – a community-based organization – was able to produce 26,000 face masks for local distribution.
- World Vision has reached an estimated 5,000 people with COVID-19 awareness messaging broadcast on local radio networks in Western Equatoria and Warrap operational zones.

- Trained faith leaders in Abrouch and Kuajok counties on social integration and their role in World Vision's programming work; especially at a time like during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faith leaders are increasingly supporting the campaign to reach more people.

SUDAN

- World Vision continues to respond to the pandemic across a range of intervention areas. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities are primarily targeted at contributing to infection prevention, control, risk communication, and community engagement. Under health, World Vision is contributing to surveillance, rapid response teams, case investigation, and case management. Through these interventions, World Vision is helping to address stigmatisation resulting from COVID-19 infection through awareness-raising and support to Government and other partners to eliminate the disease.

TANZANIA

- Organised training for 50 faith leaders on supporting World Vision's It Takes a World (ITAW) campaign, and activities calling for an end to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in their communities.

UGANDA

- Engaged 24 faith leaders in a local community peace assessment engagement. World Vision continues to train faith leaders on providing psychosocial support, counselling and guidance to households. Training sessions equip faith leaders to educate families on the observance of measures set to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in their communities on one hand, and on the other hand, prevention of domestic violence. Faith leaders from over 10 churches received training on providing mental and psychosocial services to affected children, parents and communities; including how to share difficult news on loss of loved ones to COVID-19.

*The country highlights in bold feature our work with faith leaders.



It is the harvest season in Southern Africa and different countries are conducting their seasonal vulnerability assessment to determine those that may require assistance. The number of those who will require assistance is likely to be higher than usual given the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods (especially in urban areas). World Vision is calling for timely mobilisation of resources.

ANGOLA

- World Vision is committed to building sustainable partnerships to advocate for community development and transformation, as well as for the rights of children and women. Recent interviews with Government partners demonstrate evidence of strong progress in community development and adoption of activities to facilitate management of the prevailing situation with COVID-19.
- Supported by World Vision, faith leaders continue to play a great role in community mobilisation and sensitisation, as well as the dissemination of messaging on preventive measures on COVID-19. Faith leaders are leading distributions of face masks and hand-washing soap to vulnerable children and their families within their communities. As several vulnerable families are still unable to access preventive materials, faith leaders are looking to start producing soap for wider reach.**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

- World Vision continues to engage with like-minded partners to discuss safe options for the resumption of schools for children.
- Evidence from community advocacy activities in Nyiragongo, Goma, suggests an absence of women in positions of leadership impacts their ability to address the COVID-19 crisis. World Vision, with partners like Unilever, is embracing innovative initiatives such as mum's magic hands to help keep children safe.
- Equipped as trainers by World Vision, 21 faith leaders are disseminating safety messages to their communities using door-to-door methodology and house-to-house outreach, as well as preparing other community influencers to do the same.**

ESWATINI

- World Vision organised a one-day training on COVID-19 for church leaders from its Shewula Area Programme. The purpose of the training was to help church leaders understand new regulations on 70% attendance at places of worship, and other COVID-19 prevention measures that churches need to adhere to.**
- Continued installation of water supply systems from initiatives started before COVID-19.

LESOTHO

- Collaboration with community and faith structures on the dissemination of messages on safe burials during the pandemic, as well as support to bereaved families.

MALAWI

- Continued collaboration with faith leaders to disseminate COVID-19 prevention messages with their congregations. Messages include emphasising the importance of wearing face masks in public places, hand-washing, and observing physical distancing.**
- Resumption of the borehole rehabilitation activities that started before COVID-19.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Collaboration with Government to step up efforts to provide necessary COVID-19 related support (hygiene materials, protective equipment, awareness-raising and mobilisation) to people who sought refuge in Nampula province after being displaced by military conflict in neighbouring Cabo Delgado region.
- Engagement with representatives from different religious faiths and denominations for reflections on the draft bill on the Freedom of Religion as a pathway to change and institutionalisation by faith communities of clear,**

effective safeguarding/child protection mechanisms. World Vision established time for nationwide consultations on the draft bill in response to faith communities' concerns that the COVID-19 situation was preventing the process from being as inclusive and participatory as it should. World Vision's primary interest and involvement is related to the child protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) aspects the law in question.

- World Vision's Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) programme has provided clean and safe water to approximately 24,300 people through construction of 81 new water points as part of initiatives launched before COVID-19.**

SOUTH AFRICA

- Continued the distribution of food parcels in coordination with local committees. World Vision will require a technical review of the food distribution process to ensure that it meets minimum requirements.

ZAMBIA

- To help curb the spread of COVID-19, World Vision is collaborating with Community Hope Action Teams (CHATS) and Community Voice & Action (CVA) teams to address concerns of overloaded unmasked taxis in Chipata and Lundazi and support efforts by district authorities.**

ZIMBABWE

- Reached 125 faith leaders with support on the dissemination of COVID-19 prevention and management information within their communities.**
- To assist faith leaders to comply with COVID-19 guidelines on gatherings, World Vision provided 40 leaders with non-contact temperature assessment devices (infrared thermometers).**

*The country highlights in bold feature our work with faith leaders.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- Added 80,000 beneficiaries to WFP-funded cash and voucher distribution programme in Bangui, and 15,000 more in Bouar in support of people most affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Donated 400 N95 mask to the Ministry of Health.
- **Continued training of faith leaders to disseminate messaging on preventive measures through World Vision's Channels of Hope approach.**

CHAD

- Continued collaboration with faith leaders to disseminate messaging on preventive measures through World Vision's Channels of Hope approach, in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.

GHANA

- World Vision continues to collaborate with the Light Foundation, an interfaith partner, to broadcast COVID-19 messages through Facebook on faith in action during COVID-19.

MALI

- Trained 14 faith leaders from six Clusters on the Faith in COVID-19 module. World Vision developed community replication plans for each cluster (field office) for religious communities.

MAURITANIA

- Community feedback sessions on World Vision's COVID-19 response revealed a need for increased support to community health personnel through protective equipment, and for nutritional support to the most vulnerable families during the pandemic. World Vision continues to collaborate with community structures to strengthen barrier measures against the virus.

SENEGAL

- Distribution of 500 masks as part of continued awareness-raising activities within World Vision's operation areas to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- **In collaboration with the National Coalition against Child Marriage in Senegal, World Vision is working to develop a religious argument against child marriage that will be backed by faith leaders from across the country.**

SIERRA LEONE

- Collaborated with **80** faith leaders to provide prevention and control messages on COVID-19 through social media, and linking 150 people to psychosocial support.



While the negative impact of COVID-19 is felt across entire communities, children suffer the hardest disruptions. In West Nile, Uganda, World Vision has placed children at the heart of its COVID-19 programming model; assisting them to steadily adjust and adapt to the changing context whilst observing safety guidelines such as frequent hand-washing, wearing face masks and keeping safe distances between themselves and others. ©World Vision

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