Impact assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak on wellbeing of children and families in Armenia, June 2020

**Overview**

Armenia reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 1, 2020. World Vision Armenia commenced its immediate response soon after providing food and hygiene packages to the most vulnerable families who could not afford it.

Since March, World Vision Armenia has supported more than 3,000 families in 6 marzes and in the capital Yerevan. World Vision Armenia also provided technical equipment and internet connection to the most vulnerable families.

World Vision Armenia conducted rapid impact assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak on wellbeing of children and families in Armenia. The assessment aims to reveal the main problems families face because of pandemic, particularly the problems connected with meeting basic needs of the families, organization of educational process during pandemic, relationships within families and more, to develop the most appropriate response.

**Methodology**

Survey was conducted in all World Vision Armenia programme areas, among extremely poor or vulnerable families. In total, 1,175 interviews were conducted, among them 66.9% (786) are MVC* families.

Programme level sampling was applied with 95% Confidence Level and 5% margin of error. For MVCs AP level sample was applied with 95% Confidence Level and 7% margin of error.

**Demographic data**

- **Households**: 1,175
- **Individuals**: 6,333
- **Households with a child with disability**: 287 (24.4%)
- **Households with an adult with disability**: 113 (9.6%)

**AGE**

- 36-60: 54.7%
- 26-35: 40.7%
- 18-25: 2.3%
- > 60: 2.3%

**TYPE OF ACCOMODATION**

- **Owned by household**: 76.3%
- **Rented by household**: 9.7%
- **Cabin**: 2.9%
- **With relatives**: 5.7%
- **Other**: 5.4%

*Most Vulnerable Children
In 13.8% of households school-age children do not attend online classes

88% do not attend because of lack/absence of technical equipment
78.7% do not attend because of absence of internet connection

Disability

In 28.6% of households with school-age children with disability, children do not attend online classes.

In 55.1% of cases Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is not followed as compiled prior to the lockdown.

In 77.6% of cases the IEP’s objectives have not been revised during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Platforms used for online education

The most frequently used platforms

- **Viber**: 59.5% (645 cases)
- **Zoom**: 43.4% (470 cases)

Less used platforms

- **Messenger**: 18.5% (200 cases)
- **Phone**: 13.1% (142 cases)

Psycho-social support from school

In 78% of all households children did not receive psycho-social support from school during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Quality of education

41.8% of respondents consider the quality of the distance education process during the COVID-19 pandemic period bad or very bad.

Measures to improve education during COVID-19 pandemic period suggested by families

- **57.4%** think that digital equipment (smartphone, tablets) should be provided to improve the quality of education.
- **45.7%** think that Internet connection should be provided to improve the quality of education.
- **28%** think that school kits should be provided to improve the quality of education.
Income sources BEFORE and SINCE COVID-19 pandemic

1. Casual (daily) labour
   - Before COVID-19, every 4th household was receiving income from casual (daily) labour.
   - Since COVID-19, every 10th household was receiving income from casual (daily) labour.

2. Outgoing work
   - Before COVID-19, 25 households out of 100 were receiving income from outgoing work.
   - Since COVID-19, 5 households out of 100 were receiving income from outgoing work.

3. Aid from charities
   - Before COVID-19, 13 households out of 100 were receiving aid from organizations.
   - Since COVID-19, 24 households out of 100 receive aid from organizations.

4. Income from trade
   - Since COVID-19, income from trade decreased twice.

5. Remittances
   - Since COVID-19, every second family that was receiving remittances stopped doing it.

IMPACT of COVID-19 pandemic

- Employment of 46.7% of respondents has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic.
- Household economy of 44.6% respondents has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic.
- Only 25% of respondents have not been affected by COVID-19 pandemic at all.

Awareness on ways of prevention and transmission of COVID-19

- More than 90% of all respondents are well aware about the ways COVID-19 transmits from one person to another and about preventative measures.

Faith and religion

- 13.2% of families received assistance from local Church (food packages, hygienic kits, emotional support) during COVID-19 pandemic period.

Supporting programs

- 54.1% of all respondents have somehow benefitted from supporting packages.

Risks

- 91% of parents think that their child is a little bit or very much exposed to risks in the internet through using the computer, tablet, smartphone.

Methods needed and missing for people with disabilities to get information on COVID-19 suggested by families

- 28.5% of respondents think that simple and easy materials to understand are required for people with disabilities.
- 16.2% of respondents think that video with audio is required for people with disabilities.
- 15% of respondents think that video with sign language is required for people with disabilities.
Ability to meet basic needs

- 82.8% of families meet partially or do not meet at all food needs
- 76.7% of families meet partially or do not meet at all need for disinfectants, face masks, gloves for daily usage
- 76.7% of families meet partially or do not meet at all need for smartphones or computer so that children could learn and attend online classes
- 70.7% of families meet partially or do not meet at all need for school items (pens, colors, notebook, ruler, A4 papers, etc.)
- 67.6% of families meet partially or do not meet at all need for soap, cleaning detergents, clothes and dish cleaning detergents

Response suggested by families

- 65.1% suggest distributing food packages
- 47.6% suggest distributing health and hygiene products
- 46.6% suggest distributing technological equipment

Relationship

- 64.4% of parents apply at least 1 form of violent method for disciplining their children during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
- 58.8% of respondents reported feeling nervous, stressed, anxious, or on edge during the COVID-19 pandemic period at home.
- 75.5% of respondents reported feeling of uncertainty regarding the pandemic, its consequences and duration.

Response suggested by families to address problems related to relationship

- 26.1% suggested support with materials in doing activities with children
- 16.9% suggested practical alternatives for doing family activities
- 10.6% suggested online psycho-social support for children and parents

Technology usage

- 19.1% don't have any gadgets to use
- 80.9% use gadgets
- 71.3% use smartphones
- 21.9% use computers
- 5.1% use tablets

Only 8.7% use online payment services

Only 15.7% use government electronic services (i.e. e-gov.am)