



# COVID-19 Emergency Response

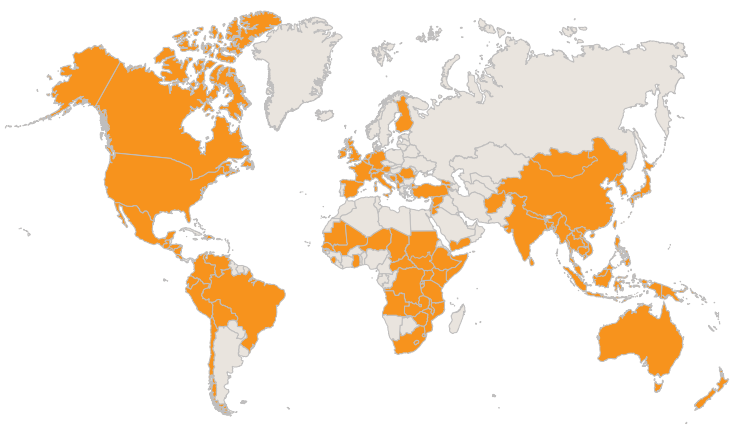
## 6 Months On

World Vision

Situation Report #17 | 17 September 2020

World Vision is responding\*  
to the devastating impact of  
COVID-19 in **more than  
70 countries**.  
Our **US\$350 million response**  
aims to reach,  
**72 million people**,  
including **36 million children**,  
especially the most vulnerable.

\* responding includes field programming and/or fundraising



**COVID-19 Cases: 29,444,198**

**COVID-19 Deaths: 931,198**

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 15 countries with available data. Source: WHO, 16 September 2020)

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched the largest global emergency response ever in its 70 year history.

Working closely together with governments, partners, supporters, and communities at all levels from grassroots to global, World Vision has worked to limit the spread of disease and reduce its impact on the world's most vulnerable children and families.

See World Vision's COVID-19 Emergency Response  
[6 Months On video](#)

Despite progress, COVID-19 continues to grow globally. Over 930,000 people have now died, and there are 29 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in 188 countries. New country spikes and second waves mean lockdowns are lifted and reinstated. The pandemic's economic toll has left families, already living on the edge, out of work, has forced vulnerable children out of school due to lockdowns, and threatened millions more with hunger and starvation. 71 million people are at risk of being pushed back into extreme poverty.

World Vision continues to call for a united, global effort to fight the impact of the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable.

### People Reached



**51,078,459**



**Men 13,579,815 Women 15,027,781**

**Children 22,470,863**



**Boys 10,965,239 Girls 11,505,624**

(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

### Key Concerns



We urge the world to stand together with the most vulnerable children to fight COVID-19, especially refugees and the internally displaced. We are deeply concerned that the impacts of COVID-19 will permanently scar the development of a generation of the world's most vulnerable children.



Devastating aftershocks of the crisis are putting at least 85 million more children at risk of violence. Millions of parents and caregivers have lost incomes and jobs due to COVID-19, forcing 8 million children into child labour in Asia alone. As many as one million girls may drop out of school across Sub-Saharan Africa due to teenage pregnancy and school closures. We urgently need to address both the direct health impacts of the virus and the secondary shocks brought about by viral containment measures.



The impact from COVID-19 is threatening to reverse decades of progress in the fight against poverty and income inequalities, potentially cutting global economic growth in half and putting children everywhere at increased risk. World Vision is calling on world leaders, who are now focused on responding to the impact COVID-19 has had on the economy, to place equal priority on curbing the deadly long-term impact COVID-19 on the world's most vulnerable.



Joining hands with faith leaders remains critical to bring hope and strengthen preparedness, behaviour change and protecting children.

## 6 Months On - Regional Overviews

(figures as of 11 September 2020)



### Africa Region



**People Reached 25,944,161**



**Children Reached 11,349,485**

#### Situation overview

In the Africa region, increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns are devastating livelihoods.

Impact of school closures have negatively affected children's learning and has led to higher teenage pregnancy. According to a recent World Vision study, as many as one million girls may drop out of school across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Reduced funding commitments and COVID-19 lockdowns have increased vulnerabilities among forced migration populations (Internally Displaced Persons and refugees) and migrant workers across East, West and Southern Africa Regions.

Gender-based violence and mental health challenges are also increasing due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

Countries in Africa are facing a triple threat – the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust infestation and flooding. Desert locusts have devastated vegetation in East Africa, while floods in West and parts of East Africa have killed and displaced people, damaged infrastructure, affected access to basic services and disrupted crop planting.

#### Response highlights

- Mobilised engagement of faith leaders for joint action against the pandemic and to disseminate messages on prevention of gender-based violence.
- Trained health workers to disseminate the location and process for COVID-19 testing and quarantine facilities.
- Increased access to water and hand washing facilities in health centres and hospitals.
- Provided local and national governments with personal protective equipment
- Supported governments in setting up and maintaining quarantine spaces
- Negotiated with governments for humanitarian assistance to be classified as essential services and the adaptation of standard operating procedures
- Installed or rehabilitated water supply systems
- Implemented home-schooling models such as village level small-group (10 students), reading clubs, distribution of work books, and piloting of delivery of school lessons through the VIAMO digital platform.
- Prepared for school opening by supporting the sanitising of schools, local production of face masks for use by students and orientation of teachers on how to achieve social distancing within the classroom environment.



### Asia Pacific Region



**People Reached 14,313,361**



**Children Reached 6,225,367**

#### Situation overview

In the Asia Pacific region, it is estimated that under the best to the worst-case scenario, with a possible economic loss of over US\$15–42 billion across developing Asian countries (excluding China), the response to the COVID-19 crisis is expected to erode local resource funding toward the Sustained Development Goals. Recent climate events such as Cyclone Amphan and others in this disaster-prone region are further hindering economic growth and exacerbating food insecurity in the Asia Pacific.

COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis, and Asia's children, especially the most vulnerable, are on the brink of severe hunger, increased disease, physical and emotional safety risks. The impact on Asian societies can be catastrophic.

Currently, most Asia Pacific field offices have entered the recovery phase of the response. However, World Vision is still closely monitoring the COVID-19 spike in the Philippines, Indonesia, and India, and will make adjustments as necessary.

#### Response highlights

- Adopted both traditional and innovative digital engagement approaches to ensure that most vulnerable can access disease preventive information.
- Produced locally appropriate community engagement materials on COVID-19 have been developed by World Vision field offices in partnership with the ministries of health, social welfare and education.
- Addressed child protection and psychosocial support needs via both direct and indirect community engagement. Remote management was quickly adopted to continue child monitoring and follow up in countries like India, China and Indonesia.
- Partnered with community health workers by providing protective gear for outreach, hygiene items for households, and updated information and resources to conduct education and awareness-raising.
- Partnered with faith leaders of various religions and other influential stakeholders to support positive messaging and behaviour change.
- Implemented cash and voucher programming to help families meet basic needs and support livelihood recovery.

## 6 Months On - Regional Overviews

(figures as of 11 September 2020)



### Latin America and Caribbean Region



People Reached **8,262,302**



Children Reached **3,630,121**

#### Situation overview

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, all 36 countries and territories have active COVID-19 cases, accounting for 7.8 million people, which represents 28.4 percent of all cases globally.

Pre-existing gaps such as poverty and inequality has accelerated and magnified the impact of COVID-19 on the region's economies, which will recede on average of 9 percent according to the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Unemployment has reached its peak, impacting 41 million people.

The first months of confinement stripped 15 million people from their jobs, said ILO. One out of every three people in the region will be poor by the end of this year, and 46% of all children in the region will suffer poverty. ECLAC estimates that up to 326,000 children will join the 10.5 million already affected by child labor. The pandemic has prevented 156 million children and youth from continuing their education, according to UNESCO, a situation aggravated by the existing digital gap, where 40 million homes - half of which are in the lowest income percentiles - do not have connectivity.

This unprecedented crisis is threatening to revive the "lost decade of Latin America", experienced during the 1980s.

#### Response highlights

- Delivered lifesaving and preventive resources and services by using digital technologies and innovative assistance vehicles such as a hospital-boat, telemedicine, radio and TV broadcasts.
- Mobilised a vast network of grassroots organisations, including faith leaders and private sector to deliver food assistance, water, hygiene and sanitation, preventive materials, educational activities and multipurpose cash.
- Invested over US\$3.5 million in cash assistance to ensure the access of vulnerable families to nutrition, medicine and shelter using mobile technologies.
- Collaborated with local and national governments to serve as conduits to deliver and ensure access of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable.
- Assessed the emotional and mental state of children in seven countries, while promoting children's protection from all forms of violence.
- Promoted collaboration agreements with ministries of education to implement long distance education and produce culturally appropriate content.
- Held dialogues with multilateral financial organisations to scale up livelihoods and economic recovery projects in the region.



### Middle East and Eastern Europe Region



People Reached **1,259,184**



Children Reached **609,103**

#### Situation overview

In the Middle East and Eastern Europe region, after a decline in July, cases jumped back in August to average of around 15,000 per day. Cases continue to spike in Israel, Turkey and Iraq. Uncontrolled contagion continues, despite some social distancing restrictions. Humanitarian access is a challenge, especially in Northern Iraq as the National Operation Command has stopped issuing access letters for INGOs operating there.

Two new COVID-19 cases have been confirmed positive on 8 September in Jordan's Azraq Refugee Camp, which hosts 36,800 Syrian refugees. Monitoring and preventive measures to contain the spread of the virus have been immediately taken. World Vision is concerned about almost 22,500 refugee children still in the camp who are exposed to vulnerabilities that increase every single day.

In Lebanon, COVID-19 cases in the past month have increased by 20 percent. As lockdown measures ease, the continued increase in COVID-19 cases are expected to continue stressing the already fragile health system and communities affected by the recent earthquake.

Surge in cases and stricter containment measures are observed in Eastern Europe countries as well, including Romania, Georgia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Response highlights

- Carried out online regional meetings in Armenia with 200 health workers and decision makers in rural areas during the strict lockdown period that improved response capacity of the Ministry of Health and local authorities.
- Received an official letter of recognition from the Department of Public Health in Ghor, Afghanistan, for World Vision's health and nutrition programming and response to COVID-19.
- Also in Afghanistan, disinfected public places on a daily basis, including the Great Mosque of Herat. Worked with faith leaders to promote other protective behaviours, such as regular hand washing with soap and water, and social distancing. Watch the video [here](#).
- Launched the report **Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage in Crises**, which looked at the most insidious price children must pay as a result of war: forced and early marriage.
- Advocated at national and global levels for the renewal of a UN Security Council Resolution on the UN Cross-Border Mechanism to demand access to cross-border aid, a vital lifeline mechanism for millions of Syrians, the majority being women and children.



## 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



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



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



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



**27,873,060**

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



**4,269,909**

Information, education, and communication materials printed and



**13,163,648**

Community members provided preventive materials



**3,742,474**

Handwashing supplies distributed



**2,353,825**

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



**200,668**

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



**78,973**

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



**36,688**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



**101,393**

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

## OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



**105,047**

Community health workers trained and supported



**409,099**

Medical personnel provided personal protective equipment (PPE)



**6,749,925**

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



**4,276,117**

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



**13,421**

Medical facilities assisted



**411,922**

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



**336,997**

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



**1,021**

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up

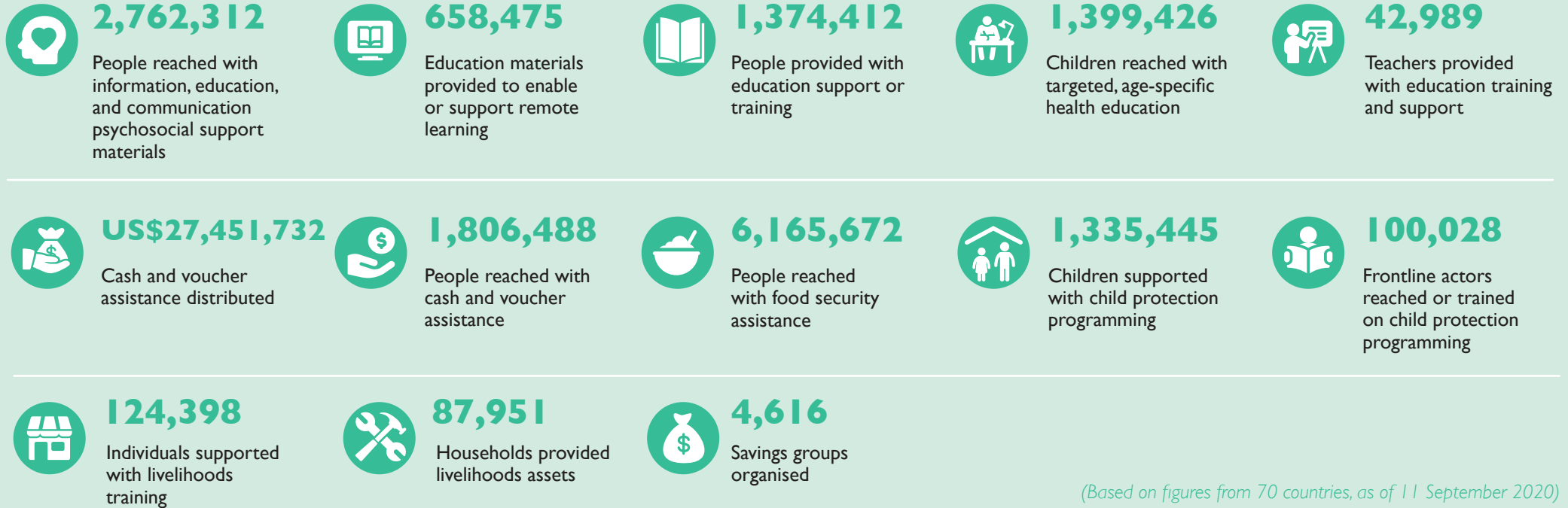


**7,965**

People provided transportation support

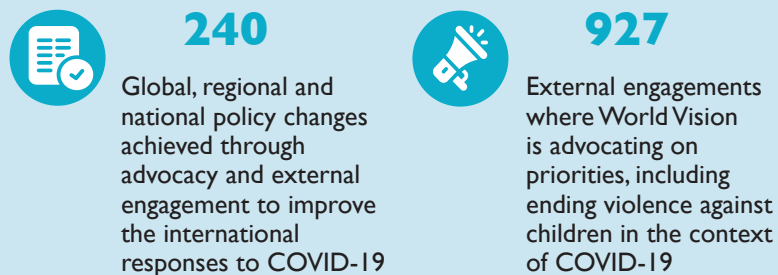
(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

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



(Based on figures from 70 countries, as of 11 September 2020)

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



(Based on figures from 70 countries, as of 11 September 2020)

- **In Rwanda**, World Vision, in partnership with church leaders and civil society, reached more than 72,000 people through radio talk shows and drama series aimed at preventing child labour and sexual abuse of minors
- **In the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, WorldVision supported more than 800 faith leaders to share COVID-19 prevention messaging and child protection information with faith congregations using digital technologies, in partnership with Viamo.
- **In Romania**, the President signed a bill to provide all students and educators in need with electronic devices and internet connectivity to enable them to continue education online. World Vision used its study on the impact of the pandemic on access to schools in rural areas in order to ensure that students and parents from these areas would be entitled to the digital devices under the bill.
- **In Brazil**, World Vision in coalition with civil society succeeded ensuring local government of Ceara State adapts and reinforces the role of Commissions for the Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Children and Adolescents during COVID-19 in state schools. This will benefit more than 1.5 million children when they return to classrooms.
- **In Indonesia**, World Vision brought the government's attention to the vulnerabilities of children in situations of high risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who have been displaced. As a result, the national Child Protection Ministry set up a fund of 100 million Rupiah for education of displaced children, living in temporary shelters.



## OBJECTIVE 4.1: Engage communities to ensure programme relevance as context changes, in the overall global results framework.



**93 %**

of respondents reported satisfaction with World Vision interventions



**69 %**

of respondents reported they have received information about World Vision, expected staff behaviour, World Vision programmes and how to provide feedback



**79 %**

of complaints/feedback from community resolved based on agreed timeline

(indicator data based on 14 Field Offices (FOs) reporting against these indicators as of 5 August 2020)

## Humanitarian Accountability

A key focus for World Vision's COVID-19 emergency response is to provide information, consult people on their needs and how they want to participate in their own self-recovery, and take action based on the feedback and complaints we hear from people so that we remain accountable to the children and communities that we serve. Here are the top trends of what communities\* are telling us this reporting period:

**30%**

Field offices reported community feedback related to concerns about how and when school would resume for children or challenges with remote learning

**36%**

Field offices reported receiving positive feedback/appreciation of World Vision's support from communities

**33%**

Field offices reported that community members submitted feedback requesting more information about World Vision programmes and distribution, for information to be shared through different channels or in different languages, or to clarify confusion and rumours

**52%**

Field offices reported community feedback about requesting food security and livelihoods support

### We listen to communities and respond

**In Romania**, after feedback from local communities and partners, and consultations with the Ministry of Education and Ministry for EU Funding, World Vision is currently implementing outdoors education activities in EU-funded projects to counterbalance and recover as much as possible the education gap accumulated during the first months of school closure. There are maximum 10 children at the same location and all activities are conducted outdoors and respecting protective measures.

**In Brazil**, community members gave feedback through WhatsApp requesting more activities to implement with children with hyperactivity disorder. A new package of virtual activities was created by World Vision in response to meet their needs.

**In Colombia**, requests for technical assistance have been received by community members to help with the use of debit cards and ATMs. World Vision has set up hotlines to receive calls and provide specific information on these topics, and explanatory videos have been developed on the use of these platforms and payment methods. There are also requests for information about benefits, requirements and details about delivery dates and sites. A large number of callers asked for flexibility in these locations and times. World Vision responded by coordinating with the operations in each area to facilitate deliveries according to the requests of the community.

**In Ethiopia**, communities benefitting from World Vision's response reported that those who engaged in small trade and casual daily labor livelihood activities are highly affected due to loss of income because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, World Vision considered the seriousness of the problem and provided additional funding to cover the needs of vulnerable people.



Thailand: World Vision is supporting vulnerable migrant families with survival kits that include food and hygiene supplies.

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## Resources & Publications

### Reports

[World Vision COVID-19 Emergency Response 100 Days On](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Secondary impacts threaten more children's lives than disease itself](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Out of Time](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Access Denied](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Deadly Waves](#)

[Children's voices in times of COVID-19](#)

[Migration and COVID-19: Venezuelan children between a rock and a hard place](#)

[Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage in Northwest Syria](#)

### Policy Briefs

[COVID-19 & Child Protection in Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts](#)

[COVID-19 & Risks to Children's Health and Nutrition](#)

[COVID-19 & Disruptions to Education](#)

[COVID-19 & Urgent Needs of Child-Sensitive Social Protection](#)

[COVID-19 & the Risks to Children in Urban Contexts](#)

[COVID-19 & Poverty and Hunger](#)

[Faith Actors in the COVID-19 Response](#)

### Global Response Plan

[World Vision's COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan Phase 2](#)

Learn more about World Vision's response to COVID-19, please visit: [www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)

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