



Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #13 | 22 October 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 1,009,917

COVID-19 Deaths: 24,106

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns that have devastated livelihoods. UN OCHA's humanitarian response plans are showing a higher number of people in need (10% higher than this time last year, which equates to 48.9 million in East Africa, 45 million in Southern Africa and 44.7 million in West Africa).

Prolonged school closures have negatively affected children's learning and led to higher teenage pregnancy. According to a recent [World Vision study](#), as many as one million girls may be blocked from returning to school across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Reduced funding commitments and COVID-19 lockdowns have increased vulnerabilities amongst forced migration populations (Internally Displaced Persons and refugees) and migrant workers across East, West and Southern Africa Regions. In East Africa for example, the World Food Programme has reduced food rations for refugees.¹

It is reported that gender-based violence and mental health challenges are also increasing due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust infestation, and flooding across different parts, countries in Africa are facing a triple threat of issues from health, climate change, and a loss of livelihoods. Desert locusts have devastated vegetation in East Africa, while floods in West and parts of East Africa have resulted in loss of life and displacement, damaged infrastructure, and affected access to basic services and disrupted crop planting.

¹ <https://www.wfp.org/news/food-rations-cut-refugees-eastern-africa-coronavirus-stretches-resources>

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 26 countries. Source: WHO, 18 Oct 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

 **27,485,949**

 **Men 7,211,620**  **Women 7,966,489**

 **Children 12,307,840**

 **Boys 5,877,439**  **Girls 6,430,401**

(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

Key Concerns

We urge governments, donors, and the global humanitarian community to:



Increase funding interventions addressing the most vulnerable populations such as Internally Displaced Persons and refugees, especially children.



Scale-up efforts to strengthen prevention and reporting of gender-based violence.



Document and estimate the cost of the long-term impact of school closures and propose mitigation methods to overcome the long-term impacts for advocacy purposes.



Support national governments to safely open schools and put in place systems curtailing COVID-19 transmission so that children return to school.



Advocate for accelerated vaccine access for the poorest and most vulnerable, as rich governments rush to pre-order stockpiles of promising vaccines. Address financial and logistical challenges faced by governments to stock-up anti-retroviral drugs which is limiting service provision and might result in failure of people living with HIV/AIDS adhering to treatment.



Amplify the voices of children whose well-being has been affected by conflict and lockdowns, and advocate for regional economic blocs to facilitate protection of civilians and expedite conflict resolution.



Keep focus on water; hygiene and sanitation interventions as the Africa Development Bank estimates that more than 40% of the population across sub-Saharan still lack access to clean water which is a pre-requisite in hygiene and containment of COVID-19².

² <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-water-and-sanitation-projects-critical-preparedness-covid-19-pandemics-37745>



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



16,277,075

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



1,754,921

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



7,474,167

Community members provided with preventive materials



1,404,244

Handwashing supplies distributed



227,021

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



100,601

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



67,973

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



49,761

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



69,328

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



112,237

Community health workers trained and supported



246,590

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



2,737,869

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



2,147,655

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



11,008

Medical facilities assisted



128,804

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



143,883

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



536

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



5,024

People provided with transportation support

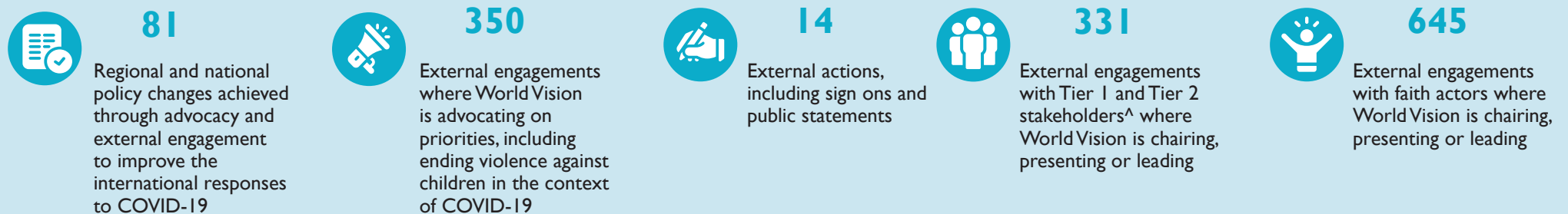
(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

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



(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

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

(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

BURUNDI

- Engaged Faith-based Organisations to reflect on the COVID-19 response over the last six months. Through a lessons learned process, the delegates gave suggestions on how to better support vulnerable communities.

ETHIOPIA

- Trained 35 faith-based organisation leaders on COVID-19 response and how to support affected families.
- Trained 300 religious leaders on digital communication skills in collaboration with Great Commission Ethiopia.

KENYA

- Continued to work with faith leaders and community volunteers to sensitise people on prevention of COVID-19.

RWANDA

- Supported remote learning for children through the purchase of 23 megaphones, which were used to monitor students to ensure they are receiving weekly timetables and online course materials prepared by the Rwanda Education Board.
- Reached more than 9,500 refugee children with nutritious food. The children, aged between 2-5 years, are from five camps for Congolese refugees.

SOMALIA

- Continued to support health workers through training, distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and providing mental health and psychosocial support.
- **Worked with religious leaders in Somaliland and Puntland responding to build capacity, including support for the development of child-focused media content for COVID-19 and advocacy.**

SOUTH SUDAN

- Relaunched COVID-19 response targeting to reach 2.1 million people between October to December 2020
- Focused on increasing access to PPE supplies in five health facilities in Upper Nile where there is most need, and installed hand washing facilities in five schools in preparation for reopening.

SUDAN

- Trained faith leaders to mobilise the community and disseminate COVID-19 prevention messages, in collaboration with local national non-government and community based organisations.
- Distributed information education materials on COVID-19 in public places through community leaders and volunteers.

TANZANIA

- Met with regional taskforce team in Singida and Shinyanga regions to discuss implementation of COVID-19 activities and identify lessons learnt to inform future programming.

UGANDA

- Continued to provide psychosocial support and counselling and guidance to households, through faith leaders. The sessions integrated COVID-19 preventive messaging.
- Conducted child and adult safeguarding refresher skills training for more than 400 faith leaders.
- Facilitated conversations about gender-based violence and positive parenting between faith leaders and heads of households.



Mary, a first-time mum from Kenya has embraced hand washing with soap to prevent COVID-19 and other diseases to protect her child. - Kenya ©World Vision



The latest outlook produced by the 24th Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 24) forecasts that there will be normal to-above-normal rainfall across most of the Southern Africa Region between October 2020 and March 2021.

ANGOLA

- Trained SOS helpline operators to boost efficiency as they respond to calls about violence against children. World Vision supported the Angola Government through National Institute of Children in Angola in the implementation of the SOS helpline.
- Following World Vision's interventions, there are on-going community forums highlighting the importance of upholding child rights and ending gender-based violence.
- **Continued to spread COVID-19 preventive messages through faith leaders, who are also involved in family first aid psychosocial support.**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Organised a workshop for Members of Parliament and government officials of Haut Katanga province to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on sectoral priorities.
- Supported the drafting of a proposed edict for the creation of a fund to provide free education, through the construction of more than 4,200 classrooms.
- Continued to implement nutrition projects and use community health workers to train the community on best nutritional practices.
- **Used a digital platform to send more than 56,000 COVID-19 short messages to 790 faith leaders, who were trained by World Vision. The faith leaders spread the messages to their congregations, reaching more than 43,000 people.**

ESWATINI

- **A total of more than 250 families under Mplonjeni Area Programme benefitted through food parcels targeting members of the different churches in the area. Faith leaders supported with identifying and selecting beneficiaries through their respective churches.**

- Conducted meetings with Members of Parliament to highlight the increasing number of child abuse cases reported in the country and advocate for protection of children during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was done in partnership with other non-government organisations and UNICEF.
- Continued to install water supply systems.

LESOTHO

- Engaged health centres and other institutions to ensure a continued focus on preventing COVID-19 infections, as restrictions ease across the country.
- **Continued to work with faith leaders to sensitise communities on COVID-19.**
- World Vision's support to the running of the COVID-19 command centre has been recognized, and the Disaster Management Manual and Plan is being updated to be adopted as a guide for disaster management offices and partners in the country.

MALAWI

- **Continued to partner with faith leaders to spread COVID-19 messages.**
- Increased targets for household interventions mainly under education, supporting home-school learning.
- Engaged youth and included them in capacity building for COVID-19, so that they can share this information with their peers.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Provided clean and safe water to more than 45,000 people through the construction of 151 new water points.
- Facilitated a series of training events for State Police and justice officials, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. The training was conducted in partnership with key institutions. Following the training on protection of human dignity during

enforcement of COVID-19 prevention measures, the police officers pledged to improve and prioritise communication over use of force when engaging with communities, including vulnerable groups, on the Government's COVID-19 measures.

- Continued to broadcast COVID-19 television programme for children and parents. The programme has become a popular resource for families and has been extended for another three months.
- **Continued to work with faith leaders in dissemination of COVID-19 messages. More than 150 faith and political leaders came together to acknowledge those affected by the disease.**

SOUTH AFRICA

- Distributed hygiene packs and food parcels to communities.
- **Trained 22 faith leaders to provide psychosocial support for children. The faith leaders have been conducting debriefing sessions with children in schools to help them cope with the effects of COVID-19.**
- **Continued to participate in the Faith Action to End Gender-based Violence coalition. World Vision is part of the working team which is developing a curriculum for faith leaders to address gender-based violence.**

ZAMBIA

- Distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) materials to 224 health facilities. The donations included foot-operated handwashing facilities, liquid soap, infrared scanners, disinfectant kits, disposable masks and gloves.
- **Engaged faith leaders on how they should respond to issues affecting the communities in light of COVID-19. In some places, the lack of understanding and misinterpretation of scripture by some faith leaders, had fueled myths around COVID-19.**
- Facilitated reading clubs at village level to help children catch-up on lost learning time during lockdown.

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

ZIMBABWE

- Participated in a meeting with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Education to discuss applying COVID-19 prevention guidelines when children go back to school.
- Advocated for improved working conditions for teachers and training teachers to provide psychosocial support for children affected by COVID-19. This was done during an Education Parliamentary Portfolio Committee meeting.
- **Continued to work with faith leaders to sensitise communities on developments regarding COVID-19, as well as the need for communities to continue practicing good hygiene practices.**



West Africa Region

CHAD

- **Engaged faith leaders to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messaging after they were trained and supported with 600 IEC tools.**

GHANA

- Trained and equipped 315 faith leaders (including Christians and Muslims), in nine Area Programmes on COVID-19 prevention and other child wellbeing issues. The faith leaders were trained on COVID-19, seven vital actions for faith communities, why should faith communities be involved in responding to the pandemic, how to prevent infection and the impact of COVID-19 on children and the most vulnerable. The faith leaders reached more than 15,000 people in their communities. **congregations.**

MALI

- Continued to broadcast messages through local radio stations.
- **Trained 60 religious leaders (Muslim and Christian) in Timbuctou and Gao region, on World Vision's Channels of Hope approach and COVID-19.**
- **Reached more than 3,600 households impacted by COVID-19.**
- Supported 15 local soap manufacturers with cash to improve soap production at an affordable cost.
- **Distributed 80,107 hand washing kits to World Vision sponsored children and internally displaced persons.**

MAURITANIA

- Reached 500 households through cash distribution.
- Distributed 100,000 masks and 200,000 gloves to health and educational facilities.
- Disseminated videos on COVID-19 preventive messages on various social media platforms.

NIGER

- Reached more than 16,000 people with COVID-19 preventive messaging.
- **Distributed more than 180,000 hand washing supplies to schools, health centres, households of World Vision sponsored children, faith leaders, traditional and administrative leaders.**
- Provided educational materials to support remote learning for 5,200 children.
- Reached more than 5,000 people with food security assistance.
- Reached 524 children with child protection activities.
- Constructed 12 latrines and 26 showers to benefit 2,800 people including 2,000 children in Maradi Refugee camps.

SENEGAL

- As part of World Vision's *Hidden Hero* campaign, participated in a television discussion under the Joining Forces Coalition. The panelists included World Vision Senegal's National Director, the Secretary of the Ministry for Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection and the Country Director of Plan Senegal.

- Participated in the development and implementation of phase 2 of the 'Aar xaleyi' (Child Protection campaign spearheaded by the Joining Forces Coalition. World Vision facilitated the broadcast of a television interview where coalition representatives articulated the importance of the campaign and its objectives)
- Identified more than 19,000 beneficiaries who will benefit from the cash transfer programme under the AFD project. This was done in collaboration with the Government of Senegal.

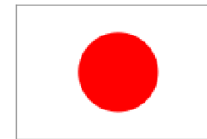
SIERRA LEONE

- **Engaged 178 faith leaders in partnership with Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messages to their congregants.**
- Distributed 3,200 hand washing kits to the most vulnerable caregivers, and 27 hand washing stations to schools, churches and mosques.
- Reached more than 27,000 people with COVID-19 preventive messages through the distribution of 13,500 IEC materials.
- Distributed 2,500 masks to vulnerable children and their caregivers in the informal settlements in Freetown city.

We would like to thank our generous donors, partners, and supporters including:



European Union
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