Situation Overview

There has been a sharp increase in cases both in Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern countries; states that had seemingly controlled infections are once again on high alert (Jordan, Georgia, and Israel). Most of the governments in the region are prioritising economic recovery over strict containment measures, except for few states with contentious policies that continue to abuse the pretext of coronavirus restrictions to shut down dissent.

COVID-19 case increases in Northwest Syria have reached alarming levels - almost 100 new cases are being reported every single day as 2.7 million people remain displaced in the area. Unless the already weakened health system receives immediate international support, the situation will dramatically worsen. Secondary impacts of the virus also continues to increase across all of the three countries where World Vision Syria operates - Jordan, Turkey and Syria. In these countries, host communities and refugees are struggling to make ends meet, while children are most affected by rising levels of begging, child marriage, abuse and other negative coping mechanisms.

In Lebanon, soaring unemployment rates and salary cuts, increased poverty rates among local populations and refugees are adding to an already critical situation regarding the growth in COVID 19 cases and access to treatment. According to the World Bank, one million people in Lebanon are living below the poverty line. The price of a monthly food has more than doubled over the past six months.

World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 13 countries and territories in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 9 countries with available data. Source:WHO, 18 October 2020)

Key Concerns

While Armenia finds itself in the grips of conflict, COVID-19 cases tripled last week. The ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and displacements of affected people into the territory of Armenia further jeopardizes the containment measures and contributes to increased transmission rates across the country. World Vision Armenia, alongside international and national partners, calls on the government and other decision-making stakeholders to focus on areas such as:

- Prioritising of the continuation of services for vulnerable groups
- Developing a unified Government approach to protect children during state of emergency.
- Training and equipping Community Social Workers and frontline workers
- Prioritising child-centred services

World Vision Syria Response is also concerned about escalating needs as winter approaches.

Achievements

World Vision Syria Response is increasing the visibility of the needs of people inside Syria as a result of the pandemic. Together with the SIRF PAWG (International NGO Regional Forum’s Working Group), World Vision has developed a briefing about COVID-19 impact on Syrians for donors, which was disseminated by World Vision in the UK and Germany. World Vision Syria Response has also contributed to the North West Syria advocacy Working Group’s statement raising the alarm on the escalating winterisation needs during the pandemic.

On October 10th, World Mental Health Day, World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina joined forces with Republika Srpska Ministry for Health and Social Protection and the Society of Psychologists to launch child protection resources, aimed to protect children at risk of neglect and deteriorating family relations during times of extreme stress. The resources are developed in the context of the It Takes A World campaign highlighting the importance of stimulating child-parent relations at times of emergencies and providing tools to support them.
COVID-19 Emergency Response Highlights

RESPONSE GOAL
To limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families

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

- **458,089** People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours
- **134,892** Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed
- **549,662** Community members provided with preventive materials
- **447,705** Handwashing supplies distributed
- **130,244** Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed
- **8,307** Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities
- **31** Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained
- **188** Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated
- **910** Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers

- **2,841** Community health workers trained and supported
- **14,053** Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **292,177** Masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities
- **843,848** Glove sets distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and communities
- **264** Medical facilities assisted
- **7,661** Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities
- **27,657** People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces
- **31** Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up
- **1,527** 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials</td>
<td>504,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning</td>
<td>28,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with education support or training</td>
<td>87,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education</td>
<td>23,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers provided with education training and support</td>
<td>1,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning</td>
<td>34,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with cash and voucher assistance</td>
<td>171,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with food security assistance</td>
<td>10,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children supported with child protection programming</td>
<td>1,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals supported with livelihoods training</td>
<td>5,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households provided livelihoods assets</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings groups organised</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Based on figures as of 14 October 2020)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional and national policy changes achieved through advocacy and external engagement to improve the international responses to COVID-19</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements where World Vision is advocating on priorities, including ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External actions, including sign ons and public statements</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements with Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders where World Vision is chairing, presenting or leading</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements with faith actors where World Vision is chairing, presenting or leading</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- WFP
- unicef
- OCHA
- German Missions
- JAPAN PLATFORM
- USAID
- DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE
- Aktion Deutschland Hilft
- EU Commission
- Metter DAAD

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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