



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 17 countries in Asia Pacific, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.



(COVID-19 case and death figures for 17 countries. Source: [WHO](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20201005-weekly-epi-update-8.pdf), as of 12 Nov 2020)

People Reached



15,680,172



Men 4,340,809

Women 4,587,549

Children 6,751,814



Boys 3,410,198

Girls 3,341,616

(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020)

Asia Pacific Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #21 | 16 November 2020

Asia Pacific currently accounts for over 9.7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 150,000+ deaths.¹ Apart from dropping economic growth rates and nudging countries into recession,² the COVID-19 pandemic is also adding to the growing unpredictability in an area already struggling to cope with the effects of climate change and the multiple natural disasters that have hit the region in the past month.

Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam are facing tropical storms that have brought excessive rainfall and widespread flooding, causing colossal loss to properties, infrastructures, and livelihoods, and the Philippines has estimated agricultural damages, caused by Typhoon Goni, as high as US\$48.6 million.³

As the region experiences more intense disasters and changing geography of disaster risks, alongside the implications of a global pandemic, children are at greater risk of food insecurity and more vulnerable to health-related issues.⁴ Displacement of affected populations, destruction of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and loss of household necessities may increase the spread of COVID-19 and add an extra burden on households' and countries' already strained livelihoods and food security, making early recovery extremely challenging.

¹ As of 11 Nov 2020: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20201005-weekly-epi-update-8.pdf>

² <https://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Social-Protection-and-Covid-19-in-Asia.pdf>

³ World Vision Development Foundation, Typhoon Goni: Initial rapid assessment report (5 Nov 2020)

⁴ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/Asia-Pacific%20Disaster%20Report%202019_full%20version.pdf

Key Concerns



Lack of availability and access to food can negatively affect children's health and nutrition and also put children under 5 at risk for malnutrition in countries affected by floods and tropical storms.



Continuous risk messaging and safe access to clean water and sanitation facilities will prevent communities from furthering the spread of COVID-19 and other infections, including waterborne diseases, during floods.



All stakeholders, including humanitarian organisations, donors, and governments, should continue to invest in appropriate disaster risk reduction actions that include pandemic planning so they do not become a health disaster.



A tubewell, and sole drinking water source in the area, is submerged during the recent flooding in Bangladesh.

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- Asia Pacific field offices have resumed work and are implementing field-level sectoral programmes. Instead of standalone responses for early recovery and rehabilitation, World Vision is incorporating interventions into regular programming, including adopting creative approaches to social protection and catering to the existing needs and gaps in livelihoods and economics, protection, education, WASH, and health and nutrition. This integration will allow progressive and more sustainable recovery from both the primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19 and effectively protect the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis, mitigating the risks of negative coping mechanisms triggered by the global recession. This seamless transition also allows for focus on the humanitarian and development nexus to build the resilience of the most vulnerable children, communities, and countries in the Asia Pacific region.

- World Vision Cambodia** has reached over 977,000 people through its COVID-19 response, including nearly 433,000 children. Click to read Lisa's story: [Restoring hope amid a pandemic](#). Under the recent flood response, around 9,199 families, including 11,551 children, were reached in 10 provinces, and World Vision worked closely with the government to provide relief assistance (including food, water, WASH and educational materials, child protection interventions, and messaging on the prevention of COVID-19) to 3,733 families.
- World Vision Vietnam** has reached over 954,000 people through its COVID-19 response, including nearly 516,000 children. Approximately 8,350 households in three provinces were severely affected by recent flooding. Initial field and joint assessments identified the immediate needs as WASH, food and nutrition, shelter and non-food items, child protection and education, and livelihood early recovery. To maximise the scope of the response, World Vision will integrate its flood response with their ongoing COVID-19 response interventions and sectoral development programmes while continuing to advocate for following COVID-19 restrictions.
- World Vision Philippines** has reached nearly 630,000 people through its COVID-19 response, including more than 334,000 children. Click to read how [Globe Platinum provided learning materials #ForFutureHeroes](#) to provide materials needed to meet new educational requirements, due to COVID-19. World Vision has also [dispatched a response team](#) that will initially assist 10,000 families in the Bicol region south of Manila affected by Typhoon Goni with shelter, hygiene, and kitchen kits and non-food items. Aside from the devastating impact of the typhoon, the threat of the pandemic has also been

a lingering concern for families as COVID-19 has affected government and community resources and quarantine measures also pose a challenge due to logistical limitations and mobility constraints. Click to read how [Goni left thousands of families homeless and more children at risk](#).

- World Vision Mongolia**, together with the labour and social welfare ministry, inaugurated their COVID-19 pandemic emergency response project to provide technical and vocational education and training to teachers, staff, and students on water and environmental hygiene practices and pandemic and disaster preparedness. Click to read more about [this initiative](#).
- Wahana Visi Indonesia** assisted 5,744 people, hard hit by the pandemic, from marginalised and vulnerable communities in multiple cities and districts with *sembako* (staple food package) [cash and voucher assistance](#). This programme also positively affected many other stakeholders, including traders and vendors, financial service providers (such as post offices, credit unions, banks, and e-voucher provider, DuitHape).
- World Vision Nepal** is broadcasting radio episodes of *Hamro ghar hamro paathshala* (Our house our school) and community radio *paathshala*, targeting 104,000 children, through the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters to contribute to virtual learning initiatives during lockdown. World Vision has also worked with Community Information Network, a network of community radio stations in Nepal, to regularly broadcast public service announcements throughout the pandemic on gender-based violence, child protection, and education issues affecting communities.

In the midst of COVID-19, bringing hope and joy one catfish at a time

Stories from the frontlines

Although her daughter puts a smile on her face, Daranee's eyes shows her despair.

"I've been unemployed for almost eight months. I worked as a traditional Thai masseuse in Pattaya. I have been struggling right from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no tourists. When the massage parlours were shut to prevent the spread of the virus, I lost my source of income. On one hand, it's nice to be with my daughter. But on the other, I feel miserable because I don't know how to provide for my family."

Daranee was consumed with worry when it was time for her daughter, 10-year-old Paeng, to go back to school. How would she pay for her daughter's fees and school uniform?

The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council estimates that the economic impact of COVID-19 will leave up to 8 million people unemployed. Based on World Vision Thailand's early recovery assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable families, 87% of parents have suffered an economic impact from the reduction of earnings or job loss.

These losses have caused ripples that have an impact on all factors that contribute towards improving the quality of children's lives, especially those from impoverished backgrounds.

Their health and nutrition statuses are compromised; their education is put on hold; and their opportunity to develop has been deprived.

Though Daranee received 15,000 baht from the government as part of a relief package, it was not sufficient to keep her family going for eight months.

"It was difficult to survive, but we needed to hang on and not give up. We picked wild vegetables to eat with chilli paste. During the rainy season, we could find mushrooms and small crabs and fish to eat with rice. I sometimes brought my daughter along to help catch tadpoles to make soup, curry paste, or chilli sauce. But the mushrooms were soon going out of season and the tadpoles were growing into frogs and becoming harder to find."

World Vision Thailand, through its COVID-19 response, focuses on supporting children and their families to stay safe from the economic contraction by providing for their educational needs and distributing food supplies to ensure their family's survival. The project also supports families' livelihood development to restore the lives of vulnerable households and get them back on the road to recovery in the new normal.

Daranee and her daughter Paeng are just one of many families who received support from World Vision to recover from the socioeconomic and secondary impacts of COVID-19. World Vision provided school supplies, school uniforms, and shoes for Paeng.

Daranee shared: "Now my daughter has everything she needs for school. She is studying in Grade 4 now. She is happy to go back to school again."

Apart from educational support, World Vision also provided the family with food packs and an alternative means of earning a livelihood. Daranee's new source of income enables her to spend more quality time with her family and daughter as she no longer has to travel far away to work.

"My worries [about how I would] feed my family were reduced because World Vision provided [us] food supplies that kept us going for days. I am going to have a new baby soon, [so] I am so glad that World Vision has supported us by teaching us [how] to raise catfish for a living. They gave us catfish fishlings, helped build a compact fishpond, and brought experts to train us on raising fish. They also gave us some fish feed. The 500 fishlings have given me hope. They will not only keep my family fed but will also give me a livelihood source in a difficult time like this."



Paeng helping feed the catfish her mother, Daranee, received from World Vision Thailand to provide them a new livelihood amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

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RESPONSE GOAL

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

Strategic Objectives



1. Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



3. Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



5,953,322

People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours



2,188,262

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



4,516,672

Community members provided with preventative materials



1,424,959

Handwashing supplies distributed



1,843,307

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



10,888

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



15,358

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



19,087

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



4,857

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



14,981

Community health workers trained and supported



85,283

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



3,822,598

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



756,823

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



2,572

Medical facilities assisted



107,503

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



14,311

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



293

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set up



1,373

People provided transportation support

(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020) 4

OBJECTIVE 3: Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020)

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



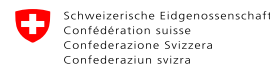
^Examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders include: WFP, WHO, Global Fund, UNICEF, UNHRC, UNOCHA, and national governments. (Based on figures as of 11 November 2020) 5

Jhanlordy and his friends play with colourful activity cards that illustrate preventative measures for COVID-19.

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