



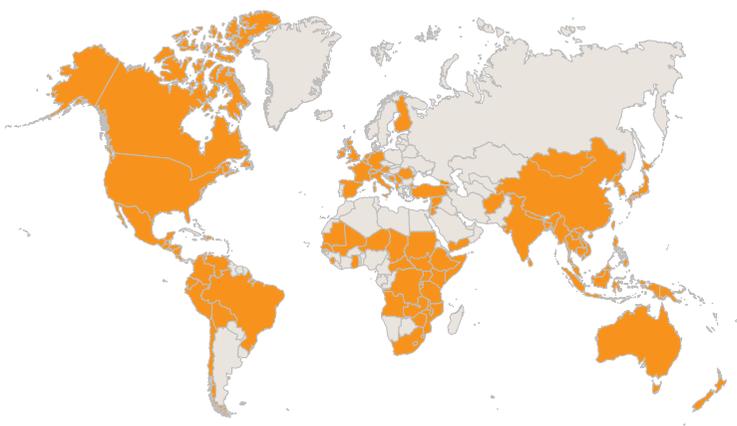
COVID-19 Emergency Response

Situation Report #19 | 16 November 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: 51,251,715

COVID-19 Deaths: 1,270,930

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](#), 11 November 2020)

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched its largest global emergency response 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 the disease and reduce its impact on the world's most vulnerable children and families.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 1.2 million people have died globally, and over 51 million people have been infected. 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.

A recent World Vision consultation with children and young people from 50 countries shows that violence has surged in the past year, with 81% of those interviewed stating that they had seen or faced violence in their homes, communities, or online since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 82% saying COVID-19 has disrupted their education.

Children are urging world leaders to protect them from the rise in violence and consult them as nations respond to COVID-19.

People Reached

 **55,925,108**

 **Men 14,670,966**  **Women 16,241,113**

Children 25,013,029

 **Boys 12,224,678**  **Girls 12,788,351**

(Based on figures as of 11 November 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 1 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. World Vision has warned that over 19 million people, including 10 million children, are at risk of famine in 12 of the world's most fragile countries due to a deadly mix of conflict, the economic impacts of COVID-19, and climate-related natural disasters.



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

Regional Overviews

(figures as of 11 November 2020)



Africa Region



People Reached 27,930,965



Children Reached 12,556,577

Situation overview

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns have devastated livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa.

School closures have negatively affected children's learning and led to higher teenage pregnancy rates. According to a recent [World Vision study](#), as many as 1 million girls may drop out of school across sub-Saharan Africa.

Reduced funding commitments and COVID-19 lockdowns have increased vulnerabilities amongst forced migration populations (i.e. internally displaced persons and refugees) and migrant workers across east, west, and southern regions.

Reports indicate that gender-based violence and mental health challenges are also increasing due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

Countries across sub-Saharan Africa are facing a triple threat of issues from health, climate change, and loss of livelihoods with the COVID-19 pandemic; desert locust infestations in East Africa devastating vegetation; and flooding in parts of West and East Africa resulting in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure damage, inaccessibility to basic services, and crop disruptions.

Response highlights

- Trained hundreds of faith leaders across the region on COVID-19 awareness, mental health concerns, how to support affected families, digital communication skills, disseminating COVID-19 preventative messaging, and small group Bible study facilitation in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions.
- Engaged community health workers in 10 internally displaced person camps in Baidoa, **Somalia**, in partnership with the government, to conduct hygiene promotion and disseminate COVID-19 messaging.
- Facilitated the visit of First Lady of **Democratic Republic of Congo** to the Kongo Central programme area where she addressed the secondary impact of COVID-19 on communities, amongst other initiatives.
- In **Sudan**, World Vision continued to collaborate with the ministry of health to reach communities in remote areas with COVID-19 preventative messaging using community radio.
- In **Malawi**, World Vision launched an advocacy project to mobilise communities against child abuse, teenage pregnancy, and early marriage, all of which have been on the rise during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Asia Pacific Region



People Reached 15,680,172



Children Reached 6,751,814

Situation overview

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.

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.

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.

Response highlights

- 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.



Regional Overviews

(figures as of 11 November 2020)



Latin America and Caribbean Region



People Reached 9,167,499



Children Reached 4,090,421

Situation overview

The virus is surging across the region, with reported cases rising daily. In North America, states in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are experiencing spikes in cases due to the gradual reopening of economic and social activities, but cases are decreasing in some countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Brazil continues to have the third highest number of confirmed cases in the world and remains the hardest hit nation in the region. However, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru have all dropped in the global ranking of infections to ninth, 11th, and 12th, respectively.

November's Hurricane Eta exasperated the already difficult conditions faced by millions of families in Central America; an area already facing increased economic devastation, hunger, and unemployment because of COVID-19. Approximately 3.4 million people have been directly affected by Eta, with 1.5 million in need of urgent humanitarian aid and more than 91,000 relocated to temporary shelters. Eta's effects on the region's infrastructure, crops, and families, particularly children, are devastating. And now the region is being threatened by another storm – Iota.

Response highlights

- Lifting preventative measures and lessening restrictions for confinement may lead to an increase of cases throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Mental health issues in children may severely increase after a long period of confinement.
- The situation may rapidly deteriorate for thousands of children in **Venezuela** and host countries in South America as families are selling or trading their goods, intensifying their precarious economic situations; children are being separated from their parents; and an increase in cases of child marriage are being reported.
- **Central America and southeast Mexico** are dealing with a double crisis after Hurricane Eta. The cyclone worsened the already perilous situations for thousands of vulnerable people affected by the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic. As of 13 November 2020, the sub-region is on high alert for the arrival of a new storm, Iota, whose effects are predicted to be catastrophic.



Middle East and Eastern Europe Region



People Reached 1,847,021



Children Reached 957,430

Situation overview

Cases in northwest Syria recently reached alarming levels amongst the 2.7 million internally displaced persons. Many health workers also reportedly tested positive for COVID-19, putting effective containment and the response at even greater risk. However, due to the incapacity to test, a perception of underreporting, and the general wariness to seek treatment due to stigmatisation or fear of catching the disease, aid agencies fear that the actual number of positive cases is much higher.

Lebanon is grappling with the rapidly escalating public health crisis, along with its economic fallout, escalating unemployment, and currency devaluations, pushing high numbers of local communities and refugee populations below the poverty line.

An increase of infections in Iraq led the Kurdistan region of Iraq's government to issue a new set of public health guidelines to prevent further spread. Ongoing conflict in Armenia, resulting in thousands of displaced families arriving from Nagorno-Karabakh to collective living arrangements with host families, is also adding pressure on national health systems and undermining efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Romania, Georgia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have all seen surges, despite stricter containment measures being observed.

Response highlights

- As winter approaches, World Vision is extremely worried about the safety of vulnerable displaced children.
- Equal access to medical care for all – displaced populations and local communities – is key to preventing yet another crisis in **northwest Syria**. World Vision believes that for this to happen, fighting must immediately stop and health facilities must be strengthened to accommodate the growing number of cases in the country.
- **World Vision Lebanon**, with UNICEF, collaborated with 12 faith- and three community-based organisations in Beqaa to provide key child protection messaging. The organisations will, in turn, support children's well-being by disseminating the messaging to their community members through initiatives funded by a US\$2,000 contribution from World Vision. Faith leaders also received training on Channels of Hope, including ways to address violence against children and various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, first aid, and raising awareness on COVID-19.
- At a World Health Day event, **World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina** launched a COVID-19 manual for children, parents, and professionals.



RESPONSE GOAL

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

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



29,404,971

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



5,173,199

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



14,339,665

Community members provided preventative materials



4,451,798

Handwashing supplies distributed



2,686,773

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



250,750

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



87,187

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



88,343

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



205,845

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



138,434

Community health workers trained and supported



420,221

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



7,870,353

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



4,601,663

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



17,927

Medical facilities assisted



447,891

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



419,646

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



1,181

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up



8,077*

People provided transportation support

**Note: Figure amounts are lower than previously reported due to address changes in counting methodology.*

(Based on figures as of 11 November 2020) 4

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



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

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



- World Vision held a humanitarian briefing for UN Member State delegates on the impact of COVID-19, migration, and crisis for Venezuelan children, to shine a spotlight on the humanitarian needs and launch **World Vision Venezuelan Response's** new report on protection risks facing children in the region, *A double-edged sword*.
- World Vision, with UNICEF and other child-focused agencies, released a statement ahead of the UN General Assembly's Special Session on COVID-19 calling for children to be prioritised in the pandemic response.
- In **Zimbabwe**, World Vision worked with faith leaders to share COVID-19 prevention and management messages via WhatsApp to 4,000 congregations across the country.
- **World Vision Chile** carried out a consultation with 17,000 children about their concerns with and interest in Chile's new political constitution, to take their wishes and voices into consideration during this pandemic.
- In **Angola**, World Vision supported the government to effectively implement a child protection and integral development law, carrying out awareness campaigns in schools focused on child rights during COVID-19.
- **World Vision South Africa** trained 22 faith leaders on psychosocial support, which allowed them to then attend to 262 children's needs, addressing their stress and trauma endured during the lockdown period.
- In **Honduras**, World Vision partnered with 15 churches and community leaders to present petitions to local governments with municipal budget allocation recommendations to address child protection needs during the pandemic.

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

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



86%

of respondents reported satisfaction with World Vision interventions



85%

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



84%

of complaints/feedback from community resolved based on agreed timeline

(indicator data based on 12 field offices reporting against these indicators as of 4 November 2020)

Humanitarian Accountability

A key focus for World Vision's COVID-19 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:

38%

Field offices reported community feedback related to beneficiary selection and unmet needs within the community

60%

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

40%

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

50%

Field offices reported community feedback requesting food security and livelihoods support

(qualitative data is based on narrative reporting from 20 field offices as of 4 November 2020)

We listen to communities and respond

Community leaders in **Sudan** gave feedback urging stakeholders to create a network to coordinate with the local radio and television stations on COVID-19 awareness and prevention messaging. Thus, World Vision Sudan, the ministry of health, and community volunteers and leaders will work to connect hard-to-reach rural communities in remote areas with life-changing COVID-19 awareness and prevention information through community radio and local and national television channels as they strive to ensure the needs of these communities are not forgotten.

Over the past few months, **World Vision Costa Rica** heard from the general population that there was a demand for hygiene and disinfection supplies. In response, two grants allowed World Vision to distribute hygiene products, such as hand soap, alcohol gel, masks, and personal hygiene items to programme areas who had requested the kits.

In **Zimbabwe**, communities have emphasised the need for increased access to clean water as well as food, following disruptions to

livelihoods as a result of COVID-19 lockdown measures. In response to these requests, World Vision has: (1) prioritised water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions; (2) will continue to provide food distributions, with the support of the World Food Programme; and (3) will offer assistance with agricultural inputs, establishment of nutrition gardens, and related trainings, as well as the provision of water for productive use, all in an effort to rebuild vulnerable communities' livelihoods as part of its COVID-19 recovery approach.

Communities in Zimbabwe have also indicated that some community members are no longer adhering to the government's COVID-19 regulations, as a result of a decrease in COVID-19 cases across the country. In response, World Vision Zimbabwe will continue to share appropriate messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention with communities.



Handwashing facilities set up in schools in South Sudan to keep children safe from COVID-19.
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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](#)

[A double-edged sword: Protection risks facing Venezuelan children during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[ACT NOW: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19](#)

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.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Justin Byworth
Global Lead, Disaster Management
E: justin_byworth@wvi.org

Jennifer Neelsen
Global Response Director, COVID-19
E: jennifer_neelsen@wvi.org

Micah Branaman
Communications Technical Director, COVID-19
E: covid@wvi.org