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.*


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 1.5 million people have died globally, and over 68 million people have been infected. The pandemic’s economic toll has left families, already living on the edge, out of work, forced vulnerable children out of school due to lockdowns, and threatened millions more with hunger and starvation.

However, there is reason to hope. In recent days, news outlets worldwide have been reporting updates on promising vaccines. World Vision has deep experience and technical expertise – not to mention an impressive global footprint – which we can leverage to help end this pandemic. We recently released a vaccine capacity statement about World Vision’s role in vaccine deployment. Our Partnership is well positioned to make a difference for children by helping to end this pandemic and by sheltering children and their families from the aftershocks of COVID-19.

World Vision calls on world leaders to ensure that vaccines are provided globally on a fair and equitable basis, distributed according to population size, and are given first to those who are most vulnerable (e.g. the elderly, those with health conditions that put them at particular risk) and frontline health workers.

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.
Regional Overviews

Asia Pacific Region

Situation overview
Several countries in Asia Pacific are experiencing new surge of COVID-19 cases and have tightened restriction measures. On 11 November, the government of Mongolia announced a five-day nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the virus.

At the same time, countries are faced with challenges of natural disasters, including floods, typhoon/cyclone, and La Niña. These recurring natural disasters, in addition to the ongoing pandemic and economic downturn put children at greater risk of food insecurity and make them more vulnerable to health-related issues.

World Vision is currently responding to floods and typhoons in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. In the Philippines, the ongoing Typhoon Goni and Vamco Response has reached over 6,400 families with shelter, hygiene, and kitchen kits and non-food items.

Response highlights
• Due to a surge of cases in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the government imposed a full lockdown, restricting movements across the country. World Vision will use its existing resources to conduct small-scale responses to support food and/or cash needs.
• Sri Lanka is also experiencing another wave of COVID-19. World Vision is updating its response plans and utilising existing resources to respond to the needs of the communities.
• The presence of multi-hazard risks in a global pandemic situation demands COVID-19 preparedness plans to rely heavily on real-time ground data and risk analysis combined with social registries of poor households at risk of hazard exposure to help with geographic prioritisation.

Europe Region

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 150 faith leaders and women in Angola on World Vision’s ‘empowered worldview’ approach who reported that these skills and knowledge helped them to venture into sustainable economic activities to support themselves and their families.
• Facilitated a discussion at the 4th Alternative Mining Indaba Forum in the Democratic Republic of Congo between the government, international non-governmental organisations, and civil society organisations on the impact of COVID-19 on efforts to end the worst forms of child labour.
• Conducted verification processes, in partnership with communities, of food distribution beneficiaries in Eswatini, identifying the most vulnerable community members who qualify for support.
• Met with 35 ‘Savings 4 Transformation’ groups in Lesotho to provide technical support and disseminate information on how groups should operate during COVID-19.
• In Mozambique, Citizens Voice Action committees compiled COVID-19 related concerns and suggestions, which will be shared with the government and other stakeholders.

Africa Region

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
• Due to a surge of cases in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the government imposed a full lockdown, restricting movements across the country. World Vision will use its existing resources to conduct small-scale responses to support food and/or cash needs.
• Sri Lanka is also experiencing another wave of COVID-19. World Vision is updating its response plans and utilising existing resources to respond to the needs of the communities.
• The presence of multi-hazard risks in a global pandemic situation demands COVID-19 preparedness plans to rely heavily on real-time ground data and risk analysis combined with social registries of poor households at risk of hazard exposure to help with geographic prioritisation.

World Vision is currently responding to floods and typhoons in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. In the Philippines, the ongoing Typhoon Goni and Vamco Response has reached over 6,400 families with shelter, hygiene, and kitchen kits and non-food items. While hurrying to support families with in-kind items, protection services, and cash assistance to reduce suffering and meet basic needs, World Vision also takes serious precautions to protect its staff and communities against the coronavirus.

1 https://montsame.mn/en/read/242695
2 https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/one-month-world-vision-assists-over-27000-people-typhoon-battered-luzon

(figures as of 12 December 2020)
Regional Overviews

Latin America and Caribbean Region

Situation overview
The number of COVID-19 cases in the Americas increased 30% during November, with more than 6 million new cases across the continent and North America presenting record daily numbers. The United States experienced a surge of cases after the massive mobilisation of travelers during the Thanksgiving holiday. Brazil, currently third in the global ranking of COVID-19 cases, with more than 6.6 million, has surpassed 175,000 deaths and announced that the country is in negotiation to buy the Pfizer vaccine. The World Health Organization also warned that the situation in Mexico was also ‘very worrying’, stating that the country is in ‘bad shape’. Mexico accounts for more than 1.1 million cases and is fourth globally in number of deaths, with more than 110,000 losses. Since November, the country’s weekly number of deaths has doubled from 2,000 to 4,000.

Besides the inequalities that challenge vulnerable people’s access to timely medical services, the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean and the Pan American Health Organization recently noted that the Latin America and the Caribbean lack an effective supply chain to ensure the availability of medical equipment and implements during this pandemic.

Response highlights
- The Latin America and Caribbean region has reached 9.1 million people (45% of whom are children) with its COVID-19 response with the support of more than 38,000 faith leaders.
- World Vision issued standards for child protection and operation of child-friendly spaces in Latin America and the Caribbean amidst COVID-19. Teams throughout Central America are currently using these guidelines, which puts psychosocial support and emotional well-being of children at the centre.
- Field offices in Central America are expanding their engagement with housing-related agencies to ensure, not only reconstruction of homes, but also children’s safety in communities.
- World Vision Honduras is reaching 1,000 children per week in shelters.
- The region has recently finalised a study that will be published in mid-December analysing the opinion of 27,000 children about their mental health.

People Reached: 9,593,363
Children Reached: 4,295,152

Middle East and Eastern Europe Region

Situation overview
In many places, events are posing challenges to attempts to tackle COVID-19. Since mid-October, Iraqi authorities have closed 11 camps, forcing at least 27,191 residents to return to their places of origin, increasing the likelihood of the virus spreading. In Lebanon, the ongoing economic crisis and political turbulence is deepening the impact of the livelihoods and education crisis on children. Armenia is also facing increasing challenges as the end of the conflict with Azerbaijan is stimulating large population movements and the peace settlement has sparked a wave of political demonstrations that make handling COVID-19 even more difficult. Northwest Syria is recording high numbers of COVID-19 cases in a context where hospitals are ill-equipped to treat the volume of patients. In Romania, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Lebanon families are faced with a serious disruption in education as authorities struggle with a second wave of COVID-19 – 87% of children surveyed across the region fear falling behind at school.

Response highlights
- We found that, for children, COVID-19 is a livelihoods crisis, with 60% of surveyed children worried about falling into poverty. Over 25% reported completely losing access to education, 50% experienced emotional violence, and 84% had feelings of isolation. Gender inequality also increased with girls taking on more household chores than boys. Building on this, the region has been challenged to listen more to children when designing our 2021 programmes, using Act Now’s examples of evidence in action.
- At the field level, Afghanistan worked with local faith leaders and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj to develop a ‘Gender in Islam’ training, which includes COVID-19 prevention and is applicable in other Muslim contexts. They also trained 52 faith and community leaders in promoting COVID-19 protection.
- Over 25% of children worried about falling into poverty. Over 25% reported completely losing access to education.
- In many places, events are posing challenges.

People Reached: 2,117,015
Children Reached: 1,099,106

Footnotes:
1 The WHO warns that the situation in Mexico and Brazil is ‘very worrying’.
2 PAHO and ECLAC seek to improve the supply of medical products during emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean.
OBJECTIVE 1: Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease

- **31,106,663** People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours
- **5,397,472** Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed
- **14,647,283** Community members provided preventative materials
- **4,738,707** Handwashing supplies distributed
- **2,724,318** Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed
- **276,212** Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities
- **87,939** Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained
- **95,328** Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated
- **210,925** Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers

- **154,195** Community health workers trained and supported
- **422,533** Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **8,075,767** Masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers, and communities
- **4,634,165** Glove sets distributed, including to health facilities, health workers, and communities
- **463,791** Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities
- **435,417** People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces
- **1,200** Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up
- **8,121** People provided transportation support

(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020)
**OBJECTIVE 3:** Support for children affected by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials</td>
<td>3,304,797*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning</td>
<td>1,108,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with education support or training</td>
<td>1,785,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education</td>
<td>1,464,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers provided with education training and support</td>
<td>55,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning</td>
<td>1,901,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and voucher assistance distributed</td>
<td>US$19,039,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with cash and voucher assistance</td>
<td>6,400,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with food security assistance</td>
<td>1,439,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children supported with child protection programming</td>
<td>134,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming</td>
<td>161,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals supported with livelihoods training</td>
<td>145,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households provided livelihoods assets</td>
<td>5,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings groups organised</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>278 Global, regional and national policy changes achieved through advocacy and external engagement to improve the international responses to COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,005 External engagements where World Vision is advocating on priorities, including ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the United Nations General Assembly’s Special Session on COVID-19, World Vision held a side event with UNICEF’s Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, and World Vision president, Andrew Morley, amongst other speakers, including children who spoke about the adverse effects of the pandemic on their lives and communities to launch our ACT NOW: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19 report. In commemoration of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child anniversary, World Vision held 10 virtual events, in partnership with UNICEF, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Arigatou, and other organisations, to launch regional ACT NOW reports and bring attention to the impact of COVID-19 in specific contexts. World Vision co-hosted the official side event for the Afghanistan Donor Pledging Conference, also releasing two reports: Breaking point: COVID-19 and the child protection crisis in Afghanistan and A brighter future for children: Realising the nexus in Afghanistan. World Vision’s Syria Response successfully advocated with UNICEF, UNHCR, and the Syrian Inter-Agency Regional Forum to ensure that child protection vulnerabilities are featured separately in the Regional Refugee &amp; Resilience Plan that informs national humanitarian response plans. World Vision Brazil worked with the government to develop and operationalise a local law to create child protection mechanisms as schools start reopening. World Vision Mexico prepared observations for 2021 public budget allocations that will have an impact on 3.8 million children and young people affected by the pandemic, especially those who are excluded from education or victims of child labour, violence, or migration. World Vision South Africa trained faith leaders on psychosocial support, who then assisted 941 children on how to deal with their emotions during COVID-19.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

Field offices reported that communities gave feedback requesting more support to enact the COVID-19 preventive behaviour messaging, that they needed more PPE, more WASH facilities, or were not able to follow social distancing advice due to work or family commitments.

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

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.

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

We listen to communities and respond

Communities and partners recommended transmitting COVID-19 prevention messages in local languages. Based on this suggestion, World Vision Ecuador made sure that radio messages were transmitted in both Spanish and Kichwa.

Communities in Haiti remain sceptical about the existence of COVID-19. “Communities no longer believe in the existence of coronavirus, they believe that it was God who spared them from such a plague,” said a community leader in Plateau Central. However, some schools are asking for masks for students and others are calling for handwashing facilities. In response, World Vision Haiti has continued and intensified the awareness sessions on the existence of COVID-19.

Local leaders and community members in Freetown provided feedback regarding COVID-19 response interventions. They appreciated World Vision Sierra Leone’s interventions in the slum areas but requested that we truck water to three paediatric hospitals in the city to help with preventative behaviours. World Vision supported their request and is exploring how we can provide a more sustainable water supply for these facilities.
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

We would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:

World Vision COVID-19 Response Global Highlights

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
ACT NOW: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19
ACT NOW: regional reports

Policy Briefs
COVID-19 & the child protection crisis in Afghanistan
COVID-19 & the fragile cities in the Northern Triangle of Central America (English and Spanish)
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
COVID-19 & faith actors

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.