



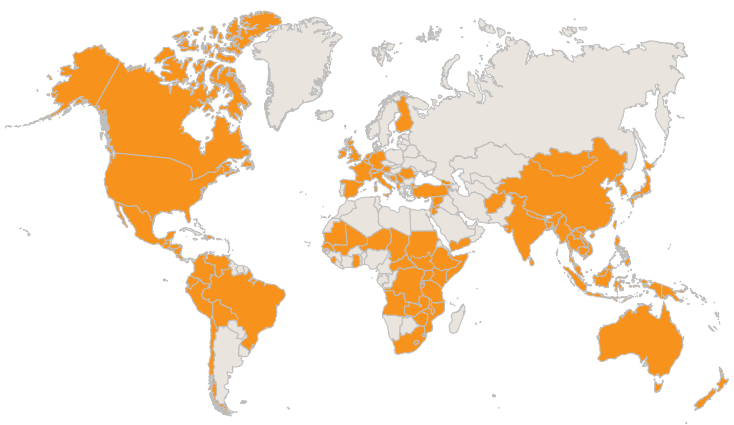
COVID-19 Response

Situation Report #20 | 14 December 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: 71,051,805

COVID-19 Deaths: 1,608,648

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](https://www.who.int), 14 December 2020)

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched its largest global emergency response ever 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 1.5 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, has 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.

People Reached



58,465,957



Men 15,516,064 Women 17,121,340

Children 25,828,554



Boys 12,635,246 Girls 13,193,308

(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020)

World Vision

Key Concerns



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

(figures as of 12 December 2020)



Africa Region



People Reached 29,442,411



Children Reached 12,923,110

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.



Asia Pacific Region



People Reached 16,013,717



Children Reached 6,854,399

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.¹

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.¹ 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>

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.

Regional Overviews

(figures as of 12 December 2020)



Latin America and Caribbean Region



People Reached 9,593,363



Children Reached 4,295,152

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'.³ 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.⁴

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.

³ [The WHO warns that the situation in Mexico and Brazil is "very worrying"](#)

⁴ [PAHO and ECLAC seek to improve the supply of medical products during emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



Middle East and Eastern Europe Region



People Reached 2,117,015



Children Reached 1,099,106

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.⁵

Response highlights

- The region launched [Act Now for Children](#), a report on the hopes, fears, and recommendations of children about the pandemic, in November to mark the anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. 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 on child protection and reducing stigma of COVID-19.

⁵ Control Risks, COVID-19 – Global Monitoring, 7 December 2020



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



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



18,029

Medical facilities assisted



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

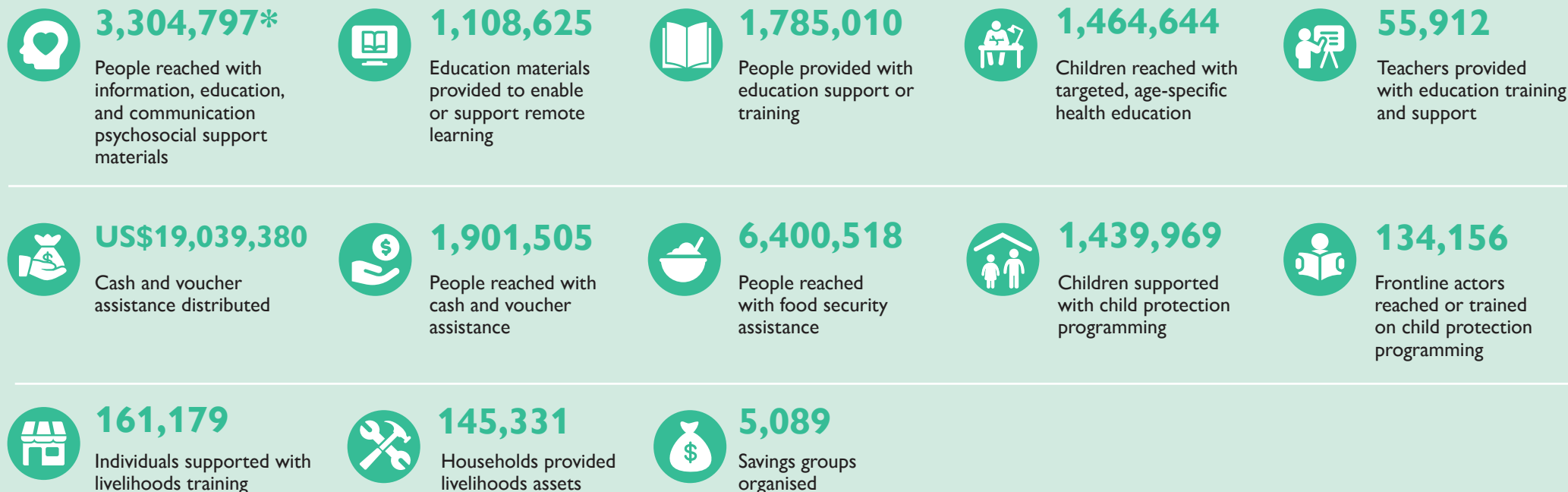


8,121

People provided transportation support

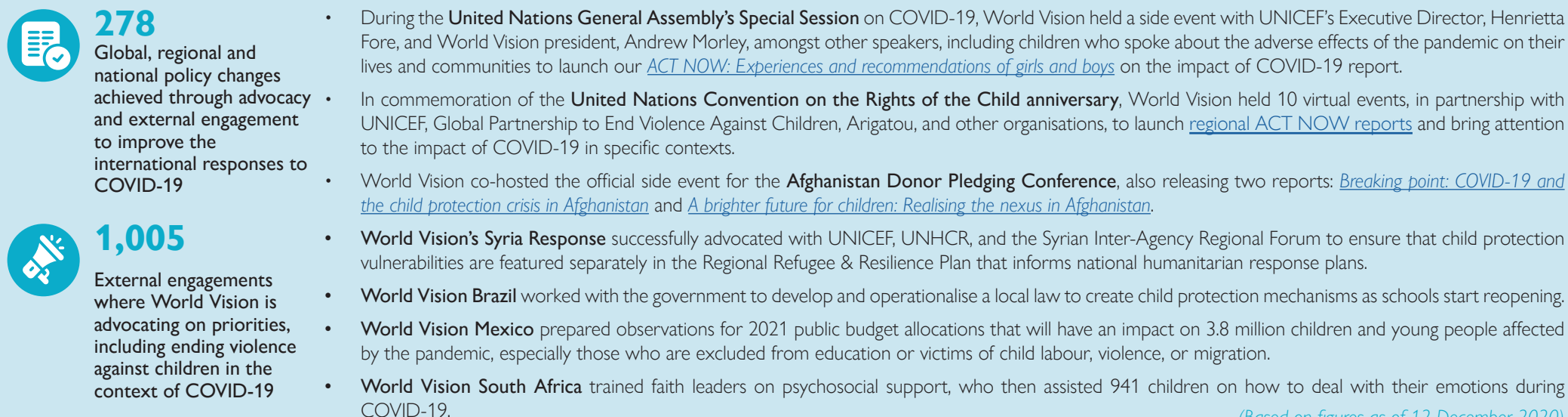
(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020) 4

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



(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020)

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



(Based on figures as of 12 December 2020) 5

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



88%

of respondents reported satisfaction with World Vision interventions



80%

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



79%

of complaints/feedback from community resolved based on agreed timeline

(indicator data based on 12 field offices reporting against these indicators as of 2 December 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:

41%

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.

29%

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

45%

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

29%

Field offices reported community feedback requesting food security and livelihoods support

(qualitative data is based on narrative reporting from 20 field offices as of 2 December 2020)

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.



Children washing hands on a tippy tap in Eswatini.
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We would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:



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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](#)

[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.