



COVID-19 Response

World Vision

Africa regional situation report

Situation report #16 | 22 February 2021



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in **26 countries** in Africa, especially in places where children and families are the most vulnerable.

COVID-19 CASES: 2,264,814 DEATHS: 63,826

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](#), 17 February 2021)

People reached

29,752,805



Men 7,905,016

Women 8,736,685



Children 13,111,104

Boys 6,281,309

Girls 6,829,795

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns have devastated livelihoods. UNOCHA's humanitarian response plans are showing a higher number of people in need (10% higher than this time last year, which equates to 48.9 million in East Africa, 45 million in Southern Africa, and 44.7 million in West Africa).

Prolonged 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 be blocked from returning to 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. In East Africa, for example, the World Food Programme has reduced food rations for refugees.¹

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.

The second wave caused by the B.1.351 (501.V2) variant of the virus, is causing fears and has led to a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and death rates across the continent.

Key concerns

We urge governments, donors, and the global humanitarian community to:



increase funding interventions addressing the most vulnerable populations, such as internally displaced persons and refugees, especially children



scale up efforts to strengthen prevention and reporting of gender-based violence



document and estimate the cost of the long-term impact of school closures and propose mitigation methods to overcome the long-term impacts for advocacy purposes



support national governments to safely open schools and put in place systems curtailing COVID-19 transmission so that children can return to school



advocate for accelerated vaccine access for the poorest and most vulnerable, as rich governments rush to pre-order stockpiles of promising vaccines, and address financial and logistical challenges faced by governments to stock up on antiretroviral drugs, which are limiting service provision and may result in people living with HIV and AIDS failing to adhere to treatment



amplify the voices of children whose well-being has been affected by conflict and lockdowns, and advocate for regional economic blocs to facilitate civilian protections and expedite conflict resolution



maintain focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions – the Africa Development Bank estimates that more than 40% of the population across sub-Saharan Africa still lacks access to clean water, a prerequisite in hygiene and containment of COVID-19.²



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



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



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



18,203,537

People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours



2,171,604

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



7,589,899

Community members provided with preventative materials



1,605,308

Handwashing supplies distributed



242,287

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



106,412

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



72,274

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



70,582

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



81,746

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



131,106

Community health workers trained and supported



251,516

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



3,126,628

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



2,250,993

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



12,853

Medical facilities assisted



140,211

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



145,992

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



685

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up



5,260

People provided with transportation support

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021) 2

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



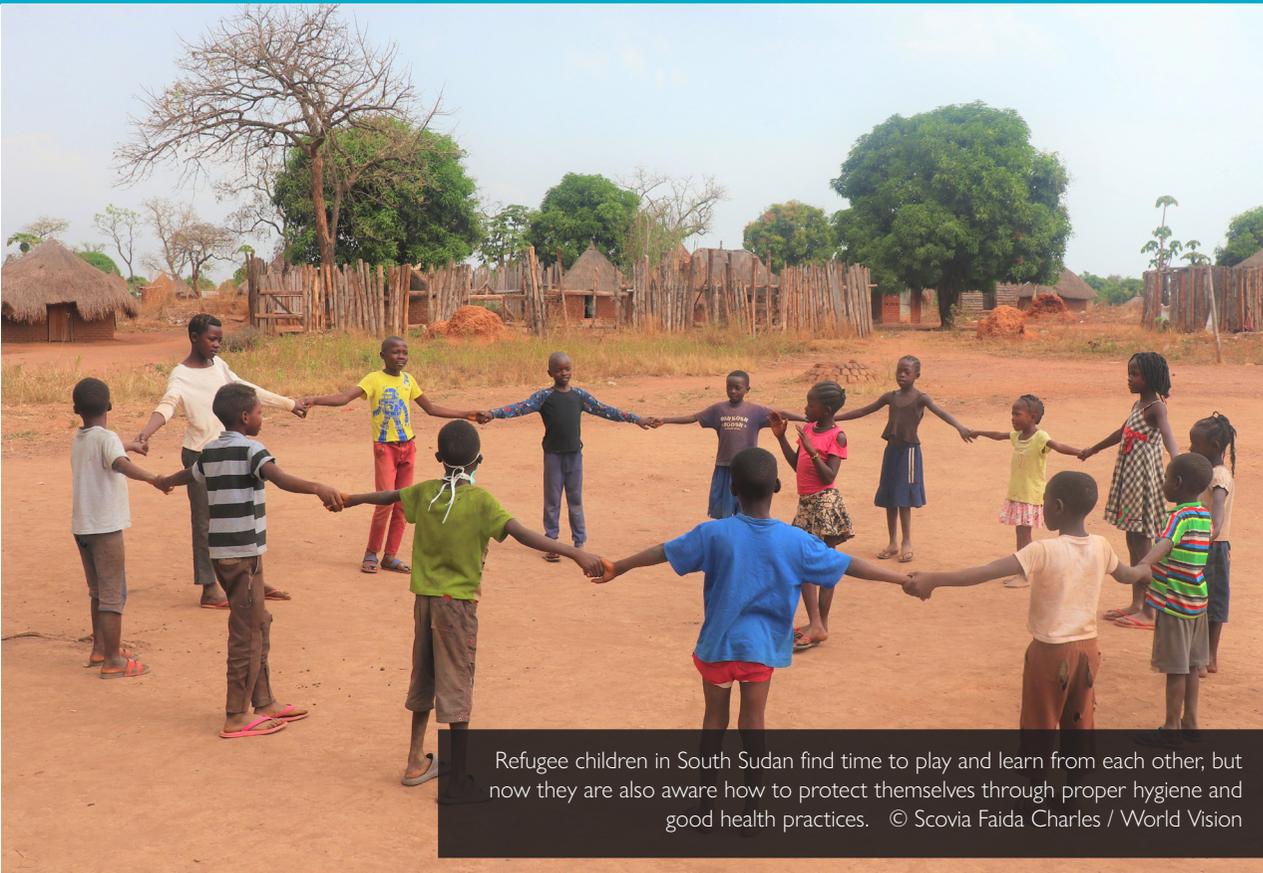
(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

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 19 February 2021) 3



Refugee children in South Sudan find time to play and learn from each other, but now they are also aware how to protect themselves through proper hygiene and good health practices. © Scovia Faida Charles / World Vision

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