



# COVID-19 Response

Situation report #21 | 22 February 2021

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: 109,997,288 DEATHS: 2,435,145** (COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](#), 19 February 2021)

## People reached

**59,592,488** **Men 15,785,087** **Children 26,375,507**  
 **Women 17,431,895** **Boys 12,922,016** **Girls 13,453,491**

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

**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.**

**No one is safe until everyone is safe.** We must work together to address the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic that are threatening to reverse hard-won progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving children hardest hit and putting the ambition of 'leaving no one behind' at serious risk. We won't be able to start restoring economies and building back

until there is guaranteed, global access to coronavirus vaccines, tests and treatments for everyone who needs them.

- Disruptions to health systems could result in anywhere from 215,000 to 1.15 million additional child deaths in 118 low- and middle-income countries over the next six months. ([Lancet, 2020](#))
- Child protection services have been disrupted in 104 countries, seriously limiting access to prevention and response services for 1.8 billion children and young people. ([UNICEF, 2020](#))
- As many as 13 million extra child marriages will occur in the years following the pandemic, with at least 4 million more girls married in the first two years of the crisis ([UNFPA, 2020](#))
- Up to 66 million more children and young people could fall COVID-19 threatens to reverse the significant gains made in reducing the number of child labour cases, which had fallen by 94 million cases since 2000. ([UN, 2020](#))
- A record 30 to 34 million children and young people were displaced in 2019. More than 80% are in countries or territories affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition which are ill-equipped to respond to COVID-19. ([UNHCR, 2020](#))



## Updates



[Faith in action: Power of faith leaders to fight a pandemic](#)

Faith leaders and communities are at the forefront of our COVID-19 Response, identifying and supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in their communities. In an unprecedented era of misinformation, disinformation, conspiracies, and confusion, these faith leaders must play a pivotal role in leveraging their platforms as we enter the vaccine phase of the Response.

Key findings:

- World Vision has a network of 450,000 faith leaders in network equipped to respond to child well-being challenges in their communities.
- World Vision is already partnering with more than 124,000 faith leaders in care and prevention campaigns.
- 84% of faith leader survey respondents reported sharing health and hygiene practices with their congregations and/or communities.
- 52% actively correcting misinformation about COVID-19.



Offices in six countries conducted Barrier Analysis studies on vaccine hesitancy studies (Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Kenya, Tanzania, and Democratic Republic of Congo). The tool, developed by World Vision's Global Lead for Health and Nutrition, Tom Davis, and our findings have been presented to various audiences, including the ACREDIT demand technical working group (TWG), the Vaccine Confidence Project, and the Asia demand TWG. Additionally, the WHO/UNICEF has included brief guidance on Barrier Analysis (including what it is, the tools to be used, the format for analysis of the data, resources on training, and a sample summary report) in their report on behaviour and social drivers (BeSD) so country offices in Eastern and Southern Africa that choose to conduct Barrier Analysis have a standardised approach.

## Regional overviews

(figures as of 19 February 2021)



### Africa region



People reached **29,752,805**



Children reached **13,111,104**

#### Situation overview

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.



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



### Asia Pacific region



People reached **16,106,189**



Children reached **6,890,302**

#### Situation overview

Asia Pacific is grappling with the impact of a surge in new COVID-19 cases, including the new coronavirus strains, that forced governments to implement stricter lockdown measures. Asian economies are still struggling, resulting in higher unemployment rates and/or decline in working hours.<sup>2</sup> While much has been done to help communities build back better and plan for long-term recovery, the threat of a new variant and an increase in cases calls for urgent attention for life-saving essentials to the hardest hit areas.

Several countries were also confronted with natural disasters, which rendered thousands of people, including children, homeless and more vulnerable to COVID-19. Protection and education issues remain a challenge and a key focus for the humanitarian community to address. There is a need to look into the changes and patterns of vulnerabilities and gaps and zoom into the challenges faced by schools, protection service actors, and health-care facilities in the recovery phase.

#### Response highlights

- Coordination for a regional COVID-19 impact assessment follow-up to our [Unmasking the impact of COVID-19 on Asia's most vulnerable children](#) report,

is underway. It will inform World Vision's adaptations to long-term development plans to address issues caused or exacerbated by COVID-19 and its economic downturn in Asia Pacific.

- In Sri Lanka, a small-scale response was implemented to support children and their communities, following a surge in new COVID-19 cases. Dry ration food packages, handwashing units, hand sanitisers, infrared thermometers, face shields, and other emergency essentials were distributed.
- In Cambodia, World Vision supported the education ministry and UNICEF to conduct a joint education assessment to inform education policy planning and support. Efforts are also underway to support the recovery of returning migrants in Batambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap provinces.
- In Laos, migrant returnees who left the Savannakhet quarantine centres received a cash-based intervention and communities in lockdown, including primary schools, were provided with water filters.
- World Vision stands ready to partner with governments, donors, faith leaders, community health workers, and grassroots organisations across the region to implement immunisation campaigns and ensure communities understand the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

## Regional overviews

(figures as of 19 February 2021)



### Latin America and Caribbean region



**People reached 9,907,144**



**Children reached 4,436,688**

#### Situation overview

Out of every 100 infections in the world, approximately 16 are in Latin America and the Caribbean. The region is reporting 1 million new infections about every 11 days and more than 20 million since the start of the pandemic.

Brazil continues to register the highest rate of infections in the region and is ranked third worldwide in confirmed cases and second in deaths. The country is registering a steep increase of cases, especially in Manaus, Amazon state, where a [new strand](#) of the virus was detected in December. Amidst this context, Chile is leading the region in vaccinations. It has inoculated 1.5 million people, the equivalent of [5.58 vaccinations](#) per 100 inhabitants. In contrast, Mexico is administering 0.56 per 100. According to a recent BBC report, the region will receive 10% of the 337 million doses to be distributed by COVAX between February and May 2021 with more than 10 million to be sent to Brazil and 2.6 million to Colombia.

Tens of thousands of migrants also continue to face extremely hazardous conditions due to exacerbated violence at the borders.

#### Response highlights

- World Vision Brazil delivered 1,000 oxygen cylinders in Manaus, Amazonas.

- In order to strengthen local health capacities, World Vision delivered protective gear and materials to more than 73,000 health workers and more than 210,000 disinfectant kits to community health facilities across the region since November.
- World Vision has provided more than US\$4.3 million in cash vouchers to 171,000 families in the region to ensure access to food, shelter, and medicines. In addition, we have assisted more than 13,000 families with seeds, livestock, and agricultural tools to ensure their livelihoods remain stable.
- Persistent lockdowns have interrupted education for millions of children. However, World Vision has provided educational material and access to remote education to more than 325,000 children and young people.
- As violence increases in homes, World Vision has provided protection to more than 481,000 children since November 2020 and supported more than 21,000 teachers.
- World Vision celebrates its collaboration with MasterCard whose donations have made it possible to provide food to more than 250,000 families affected by COVID-19 in Colombia.



### Middle East and Eastern Europe region



**People reached 2,526,899**



**Children reached 1,280,626**

#### Situation overview

Cases in the Middle East and North Africa non-European Union (EU) countries remain well below the US, EU, and Latin America, but are considerably higher than Africa and Asia. However, infection rates in Albania and Kosovo have been some of the highest globally. Rates were also high in Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Romania.

Only two of World Vision's field offices (Romania and Jerusalem / West Bank / Gaza (JWG)) have been able to start vaccination programmes in the region and access remains reliant upon government policies and ability to procure vaccines. Armenia (Sputnik), Lebanon (Pfizer and AstraZeneca), and Iraq (AstraZeneca) have announced plans to start immunisations in February, and Bosnia and JWG have said they are procuring vaccines (Sputnik). With the exception of one office in the region, there are no reports of new challenges to running operations in the field. World Vision Lebanon has been working hard with UN partners to negotiate access to maintain essential operations during their national lockdown. Lebanon and Israel have begun gradually easing their severe lockdown restrictions. However, flight restrictions between countries appear to be growing. Lebanon, JWG, Iraq, and Romania all reported growing international travel restrictions.

#### Response highlights

- World Vision Afghanistan trained 1,000 faith leaders who then reached out to more than 98,000 people with faith-based messages on COVID-19 concerns. These networks were further strengthened by their work with the Department of Religious Affairs and Haj and two provincial-level faith leader forums.
- World Vision's Syria Response continued their lobbying on cross-border access sharing a joint statement on social media along with 23 other aid agencies warning that reduced access impedes responding to COVID-19 accelerated vulnerabilities due to winter conditions.
- World Vision Georgia has started to implement COVID-19 Response action focusing on essential food distribution to the most vulnerable families.
- World Vision Albania, along with partner organisations UNICEF and Save the Children, sent a joint letter to the Albanian prime minister raising children's issues prior to his address at the United Nations' General Assembly's Special Session on COVID-19, which received a formal response.



**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**



**31,451,096**

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



**5,573,530**

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



**14,944,464**

Community members provided preventative materials



**4,803,098**

Handwashing supplies distributed



**2,774,173**

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



**291,022**

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



**88,654**

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



**97,175**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



**128,669\***

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

*\*Note: Figures have been amended to address errors recorded in previous sitrep. The number is lower than previously reported due to a mistake in counting methodology by a reporting country.*

*(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)*

**OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers**



**158,661**

Community health workers trained and supported



**428,867**

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



**8,441,555**

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



**4,681,942**

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



**18,258**

Medical facilities assisted



**482,416**

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



**437,198**

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



**1,201**

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up



**8,636**

People provided transportation support

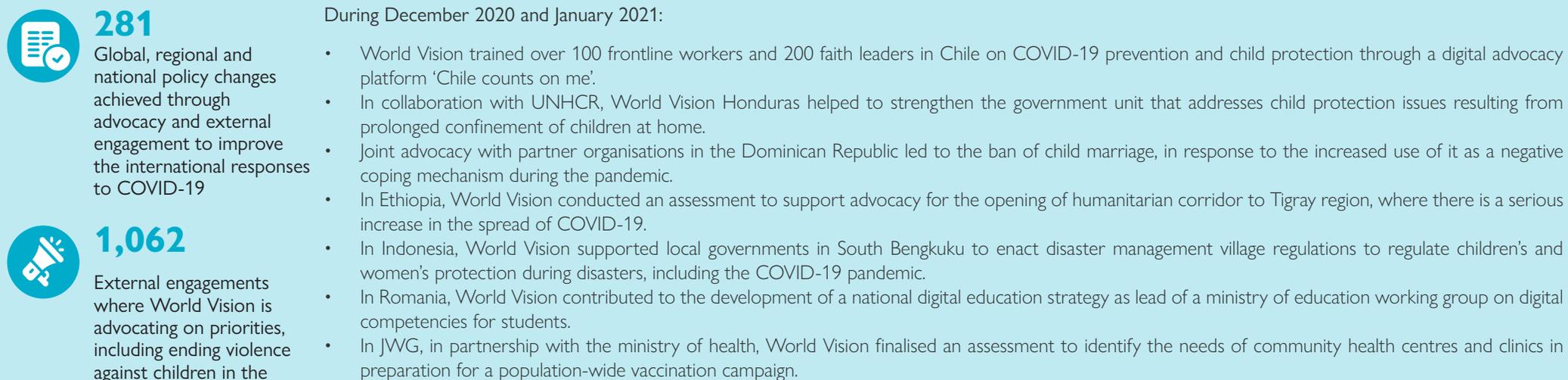
*(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)* 4

## OBJECTIVE 3: Support for children affected by COVID-19 through 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



(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021) 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:

30%

Field offices reported that communities gave feedback requesting more support to enact the COVID-19 preventative 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.

40%

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

53%

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

25%

Field offices reported community feedback requesting food security and livelihoods support

25%

Field offices reported community feedback about beneficiary selection, both wanting to be included in projects and requesting explanations of the beneficiary selection criteria

*(qualitative data is based on narrative reporting from 32 field offices as of 30 January 2021)*

## We listen to communities and respond

Beneficiaries in Sierra Leone expressed appreciation for support but specifically requested for livelihoods support to cushion the impact of COVID-19. Thus, World Vision will provide livelihoods training and support to the most vulnerable households. Beneficiaries in western rural areas also requested that hard-to-reach areas be supported with water facilities to enable water access for these communities for handwashing, drinking, and domestic use. Thus, World Vision Sierra Leone is conducting water feasibility studies in the area and will construct two solar mechanised boreholes in 2021.

Some complaints were received from communities in Syria, mostly related to the need to receive more hygiene kits or the insufficiency of those distributed. World Vision Syria responded and distributed

additional hygiene kits as needed. In response to requests to extend distributions of preventative items (such as soap, masks, gloves, and sterilisers) as part of several projects in Syria, World Vision Syria is addressing these requests and following up.

Feedback from communities over the past couple of months has mostly centred on COVID-19 vaccinations with communities asking about the safety and availability of vaccines and whether World Vision will support communities to access the vaccines. World Vision is working with field offices to help respond to these questions.



World Vision staff meeting with displaced Syrian family in Northwest Syria to provide hygiene items to fight COVID-19. © World Vision

## Resources and publications

### Reports

[Faith in action: Power of faith leaders to fight a pandemic](#)

[CHW \[community health worker\] survey report for COVID-19 Response countries](#)

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

[ACT NOW: regional reports](#)

[100 days on: COVID-19 Emergency Response](#)

[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](#)

### Policy briefs

COVID-19 & the fragile cities in the Northern Triangle of Central America ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))

[COVID-19 & green recovery](#)

Complex crisis, broken childhood: The situation for children affected by conflict & fragility in the Central Sahel ([English](#) and [French](#))

[COVID-19 & faith actors](#)

[COVID-19 & poverty and hunger](#)

[COVID-19 & the risks to children in urban contexts](#)

[COVID-19 & urgent needs of child-sensitive social protection](#)

[COVID-19 & disruptions to education](#)

[COVID-19 & risks to children's health and nutrition](#)

[COVID-19 & child protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts](#)

Learn more about World Vision's response to COVID-19, please visit: [www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org) or read about our vaccine response plans in our [vaccine capacity statement](#).

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



unicef



The Global Fund  
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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DUTCH  
RELIEF  
ALLIANCE



Global Affairs Canada  
Affaires mondiales Canada



Aktion  
Deutschland Hilft  
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