

# ACT NOW for Children

World Vision 

How a Global Pandemic is Changing the Lives of  
Children in Middle East and Eastern Europe Region



# ACT NOW for Children

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# Objectives

Impact

Resilience

Risks

Recommendations

Resources

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# Mixed method design

762 

CHILDREN

395  367   
GIRLS BOYS

11 - 17 YEARS OLD

12   
COUNTRIES

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Georgia  
Iraq  
Jerusalem-West Bank-Gaza  
Kosovo  
Lebanon  
Romania  
Syria response countries  
(Jordan, Syria and Turkey)

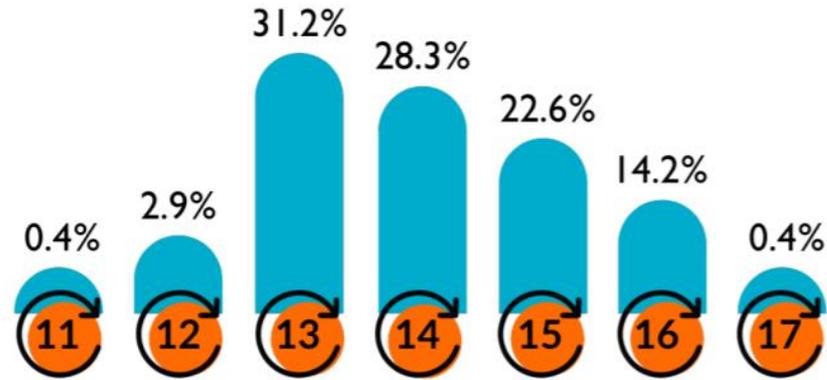
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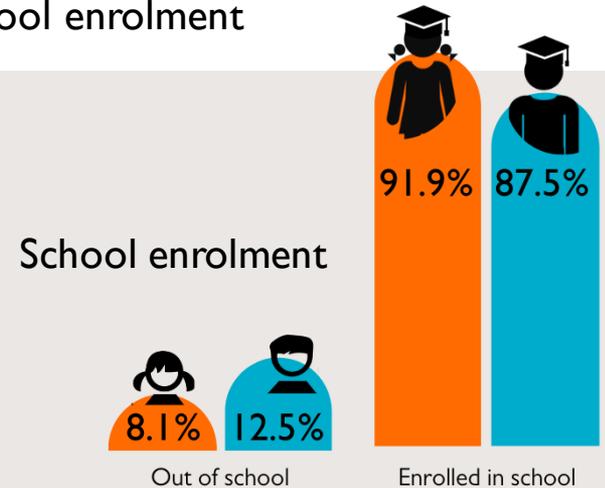
# Findings



# Socio-demographic profile of children



Age versus school enrolment



School enrolment

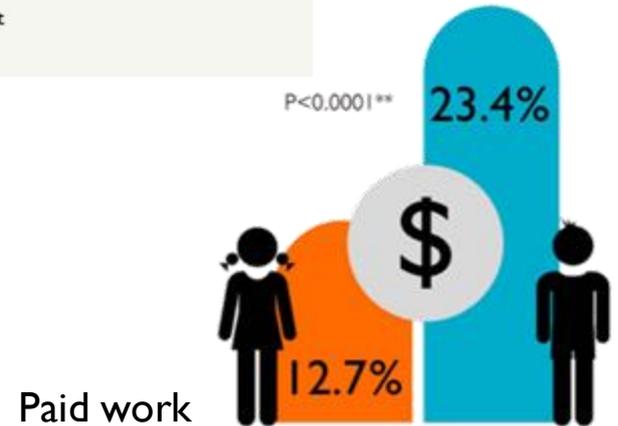
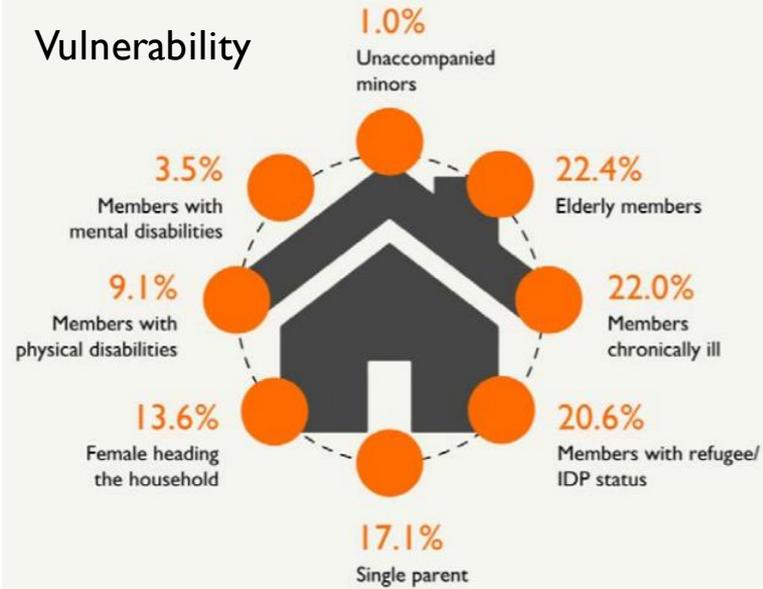
Out of school

Enrolled in school

# Socio-demographic profile of children



## Vulnerability





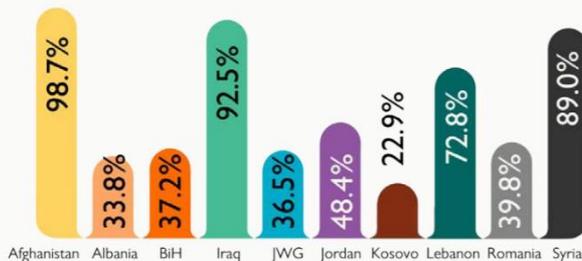
**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



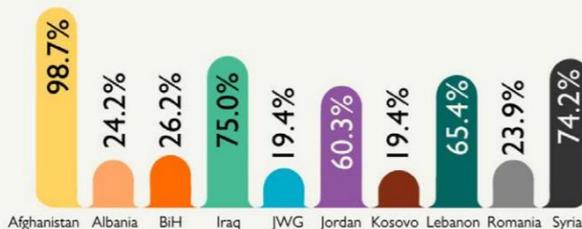
## Economic hardship

“  
Girl, 15,  
Afghanistan  
“Some evenings  
we go to sleep  
without eating  
food, because  
there is nothing  
to eat.”

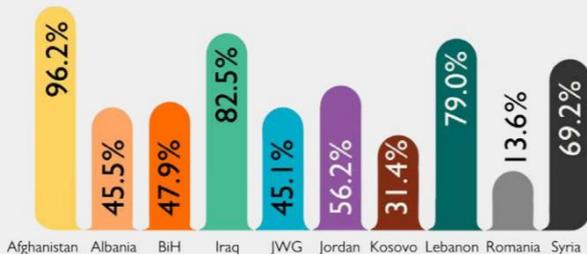
### SCARED OF FALLING IN POVERTY



### SCARED OF NOT HAVING ACCESS TO FOOD



### SCARED OF PARENTS LOSING THEIR JOBS



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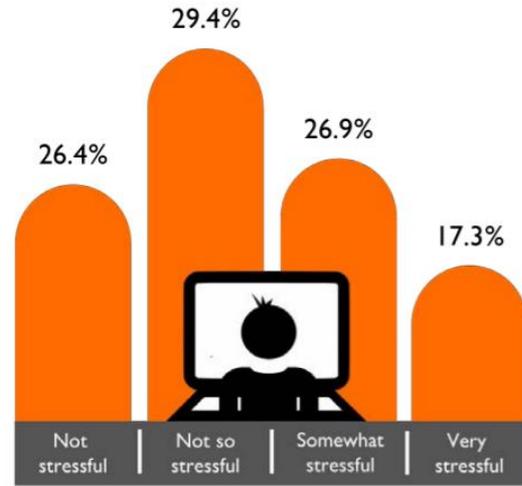
**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



## Disrupted education



Boy, 15, Georgia  
“No matter how well you study alone, you will still have difficulties. Learning by yourself is not a good idea.”



School experience during pandemic



25%

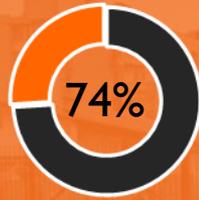
of surveyed children were completely deprived of continuing any learning for the actual school year.



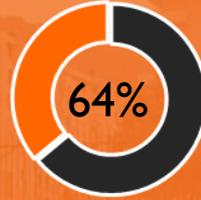
**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



## Disrupted education



Missing out on the school curricula and falling behind



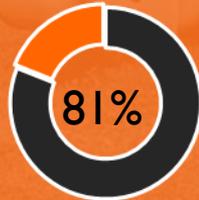
Missing out on the school year and graduation



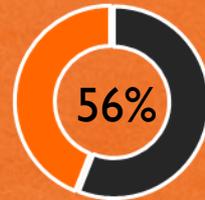
Boy, 15, Albania  
“I noticed that I have a major gap in learning and I need to work harder next year to achieve results.”



### Stress factors



Accumulated learning gaps and worried about their readiness for school next fall



Financial situation and their parent's ability to pay school fees

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**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



## Social isolation



**83.7%**

were stressed because they were isolated from their friends



**79.6%**

were stressed because they could not interact with older relatives such as grandparents due to social distancing measures



Boy, 16, Albania  
“Being stuck at home all day makes you upset and frustrated whether you like it or not.”

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**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



## Mental health

“  
Girl, 14, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
“Life as we knew it before,  
disappeared overnight.”

“  
Girl, 15, JWG  
“I feel stressed  
and worried from  
dying from the  
virus. My fears  
grew after seeing  
severe COVID-  
19 cases on social  
media”

49%



SAD

49%



WORRIED

39%



SCARED

“  
Boy, 14, Lebanon  
“COVID-19 is ruining my life  
and the lives of children I know  
around me.”

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**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life

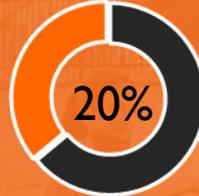


## Increased violence

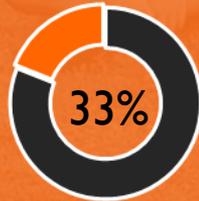
For 72% of those who experienced violence, the perpetrator was someone from the family.



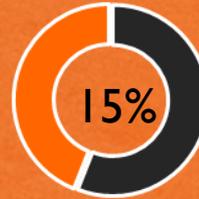
experienced emotional violence at least once during the pandemic.



knew of intimate violence being experienced by other children.



of children in Iraq and Afghanistan reported incidents of physical violence.



have heard at least once about online dangers in their community.

Girl, 13, Afghanistan  
“Our neighbour always calls his children with bad names and every day he hits them and his wife too”

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**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life



## Abuse and exploitation

**17.5%**  
of children are  
working since the  
outbreak

“  
Girl, 16, Syria  
“My parents forced  
my sister to marry  
an old man  
because we are  
thirteen girls and  
boys at home and  
my parents could  
not feed us all”

“  
Boy, 13, Lebanon  
“Some of my friends were  
skipping online sessions to help  
their families survive  
the economic crisis.”



**Pandemic impact**  
on children's daily life

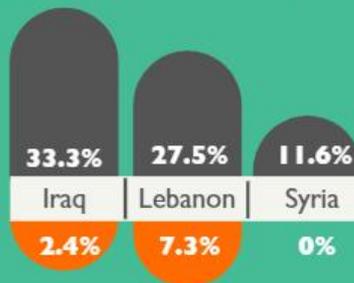


# Gender inequality

## I. PRODUCTIVE AND REPRODUCTIVE WORK



With significant difference in:



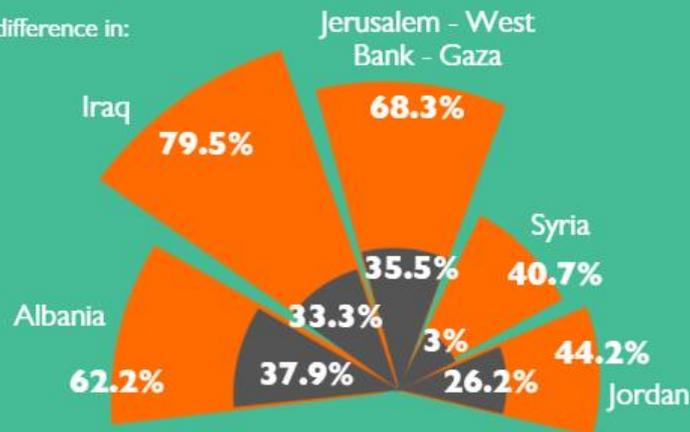
However working girls suffered

# 3X

more than working boys from an increased workload during the pandemic



With significant difference in:



# Pandemic impact

on children's daily life



# Gender inequality

## Pandemic impact

on children's daily life

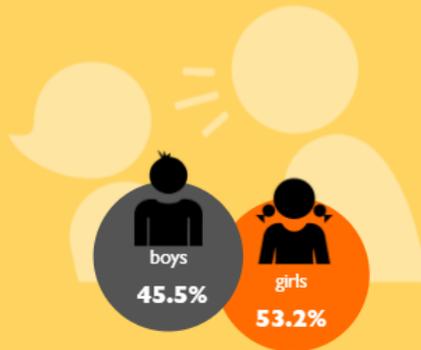
### 2. PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE



Boys are **3X** more likely than girls to experience physical violence from **friends**

Girls are **2.5X** more likely than boys to experience physical violence from **family members**

Boys are **9X** more likely than girls to experience physical violence from **strangers**



Girls are **0.5X** more likely than boys to be emotionally abused by **family members**

Boys are **3X** more likely than girls to be emotionally abused by an **adult they know**

Boys are **2.5X** more likely than girls to be emotionally abused by a **friend or teacher**

Boys are **4X** more likely than girls to be emotionally abused by a **stranger**



Gender  
inequality

### 3. RESILIENCE AND COPING MECHANISMS



Girls are more likely  
to experience negative emotions  
than boys



## Pandemic impact

on children's daily life



## Gender inequality

Half of surveyed children are most often optimistic about the future.

Boy, 16, JWG  
“During the COVID crisis I prayed to feel better and become more positive about the future.”

## Boys are more resilient than girls when facing pandemic stressors



## Pandemic impact

on children's daily life



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# Children's asks to Governments and decision makers



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Supplies to fight the spread of the disease

Up-to-date and reliable information

Safety measures

Free and comprehensive health care

Safe spaces to fight social isolation

Laws to protect children from violence

Safely open schools and enhance on-line learning

Electronic devices and the internet

Food, financial assistance, livelihood opportunities

# World Vision Recommendations



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Consider COVID-19 as a child protection and GBV crisis

Prevent, mitigate, respond to all forms of violence against children

Act together - faith leaders and faith-based organisations

Work in collaboration

Fund education programmes

Invest in CBP, food assistance and livelihood support

Invest in programmes that strengthen families.

# Our actions



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Paving the way to a new **coalition of stakeholders** willing to address **Violent Child Discipline in Lebanon**

Findings on **child labour** generated learning was used for **evidence driven advocacy with UNICEF** as a result of which psycho social support elements were added to respective grant to support targeted vulnerable refugee children in Lebanon

Findings were used to inform **policy brief Breaking Point COVID-19** and the Child Protection Crisis in Afghanistan and the **Donor Pledging Conference**

Increased focus on **Livelihood programming** in Iraq

