World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 27 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in places where children and families are the most vulnerable.

COVID-19 CASES: 4,908,777 DEATHS: 132,436

Situation overview

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns have devastated livelihoods and access to services across Africa. OCHA reports that 10–30% more people are in need now versus a year ago (48.9 million in East Africa, 45 million in Southern Africa, and 65.5 million in West and Central Africa).

The Delta variant has caused the third wave with a significant increase in new infections and deaths in many countries on the continent, including South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The re-introduction of preventative measures will help to curb the spread, but will also have a negative economic impact on communities and disrupt other health services, including the provision of HIV and AIDS treatments. A 16–30% decrease in HIV testing was found in Kenya after earlier lockdowns, and a similar study in South Africa reported a 50% decrease in HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment. COVID-19 restriction measures, such as social distancing, have constrained access to some affected populations, and school closures and adapted class schedules have resulted in learners losing significant education time.

Reduced funding and lockdowns have also increased vulnerabilities amongst internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers across all regions. In East Africa, for example, the World Food Programme has reduced food rations for refugees. Additionally, reports indicate that gender-based violence and mental health challenges remain high due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

Countries across sub-Saharan Africa are facing a quadruple threat of issues from conflict, climate change, and loss of livelihoods alongside the manifold impacts of the pandemic. Locusts in East Africa have devastated vegetation and food production, and climate-related shocks, as well as protracted and new conflicts, in parts of East, West, and Southern Africa have resulted in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure damage, inaccessibility to basic services, and crop disruptions.

Most governments have begun rolling out COVID-19 vaccinations starting with frontline workers and medical staff, albeit at a slow pace, largely due to limited availability in some contexts.
COVID-19 Response highlights

Key concerns and needs

- Increase funding interventions addressing the most vulnerable populations, such as internally displaced persons and refugees
- Revamp strategies to increase HIV testing and treatment to curtail the loss of gains made in the last 10 years and address the financial and logistical challenges faced by African 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
- 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 advocate for mitigation methods
- Support national governments to maintain systems curtailing COVID-19 transmission so that children can remain in school
- Advocate for accelerated vaccine access for the poorest and most vulnerable to stop rich countries from stockpiling COVID-19 vaccines and support national governments in community engagement efforts for vaccine acceptance and uptake
- 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 for hygiene and containment of COVID-19
- Attention on forecasted normal to above normal rainfall for the 2021/2022 season (November 2021 to March 2022) in Southern Africa, which is good news as the prospects for improved crop production and livestock grazing will be higher, but it also means that the region has to contend with potential cyclones and flooding

Regional highlights

More than 7 million people across six countries in East Africa are facing a hunger crisis and approximately 500,000 are faced with catastrophic conditions, especially in South Sudan and northern Ethiopia. In March 2021, World Vision declared a multi-country East Africa Hunger Emergency Response (EAHER) category III response for Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan and category II for Uganda and Kenya, to reach approximately 4.5 million people, including 2.1 million children. The responses include cross-cutting programmes that will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and its impacts, through improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services; food security assistance; strengthened health systems providing greater access to curative and preventative health and nutrition services; livelihoods support; and child protection services.

As conflict, climate change and COVID-19 impacts continue to drive high levels of humanitarian needs and population displacement, particularly across the Central Sahel, World Vision has declared a category III response in Burkina Faso (the fifth category III in West Africa) to assist 420,000 crisis-affected people in the northern part of the country, alongside integrated activities to reduce the impacts of COVID-19.

In Southern Africa, World Vision Malawi, as a member of the national COVID-19 vaccine taskforce, works to reduce COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy – they have trained more than 100 faith leaders on how to talk to their congregations about vaccine myths and COVID-19.

1 This is induced by a La Niña phenomenon, which is the cooling phase within the temperature oscillation in the Pacific Ocean which often results in higher rainfall in southern Africa
**OBJECTIVE 1: Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease**

- **23,591,992** People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours
- **3,033,863** Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed
- **8,466,377** Community members provided preventative materials
- **2,361,657** Handwashing supplies distributed
- **350,595** Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed
- **139,032** Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities
- **95,868** Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained
- **95,972** Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated
- **142,508** Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures
- **709,589** People reached with vaccine acceptance messaging
- **27** Studies conducted to inform vaccine messaging

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

- **150,647** Community health workers trained and supported
- **1,924,863** Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **4,285,810** Masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers, and communities
- **12,516,568** Glove sets distributed, including to health facilities, health workers, and communities
- **13,964** Medical facilities assisted
- **159,215** Disinfectant kits distributed to healthcare facilities
- **147,213** People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces
- **752** Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up
- **5,386** People provided transportation support
- **67** Community health workers trained for vaccine acceptance
- **232** Frontline workers trained on COVID-19 vaccination
- **342** People trained on Citizen Voice and Action related to vaccine acceptance

*Based on figures as of 22 October 2021*
### OBJECTIVE 3: Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th><strong>Data</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials</td>
<td>2,723,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning</td>
<td>638,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with education support or training</td>
<td>846,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education</td>
<td>1,172,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers provided with education training and support</td>
<td>35,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and voucher assistance distributed</td>
<td>US$16,352,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with cash and voucher assistance</td>
<td>789,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with food security assistance</td>
<td>3,513,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children supported with child protection programming</td>
<td>692,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming</td>
<td>57,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals supported with livelihoods training</td>
<td>110,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households provided livelihoods assets</td>
<td>70,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings groups organised</td>
<td>11,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with disabilities receiving extra support during emergencies</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Based on figures as of 22 October 2021)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th><strong>Data</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global, regional, and national policy changes achieved through advocacy and external engagement to improve the international responses to COVID-19</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements where World Vision is advocating on priorities, including ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External actions, including sign ons and public statements</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements with Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders* where World Vision is chairing, presenting, or leading</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External engagements with faith actors where World Vision is chairing, presenting, or leading</td>
<td>1,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field offices participating in vaccine coordinating body</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders include: WFP, WHO, Global Fund, UNICEF, UNHRC, UNOCHA, and national governments. (Based on figures as of 22 October 2021)
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Increasing food insecurity, high inflation, climate change, and COVID-19 are driving malnutrition in South Darfur, Sudan amongst vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons, but children under 5 are bearing the greatest brunt. It is especially tough during the lean season, which started in May and lasts through October, as food stocks have been depleted and households are waiting to harvest their crops.

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