



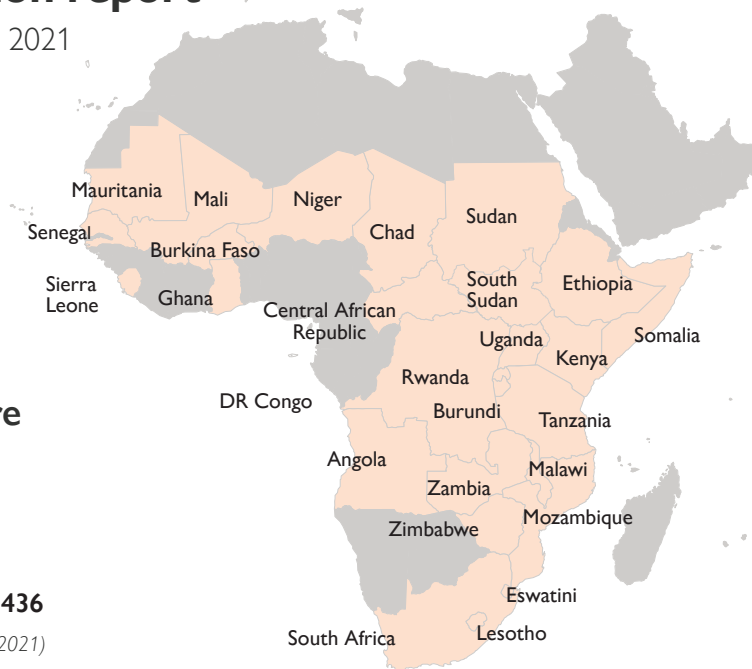
Africa regional situation report

Situation report #19 | 25 October 2021

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

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](#), 23 October 2021)

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



People reached



37,457,993

Men 10,103,222

Women 11,221,455



Children 16,134,126

Boys 7,711,932










Girls 8,422,194

(Based on figures as of 22 October 2021)

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.

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,¹ 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

 **RESPONSE GOAL**
To limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families

Strategic objectives

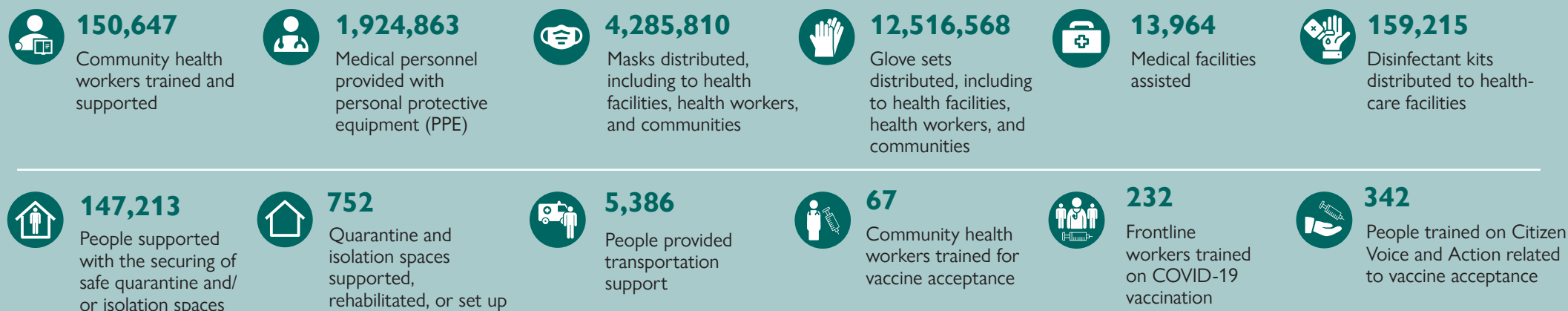
-  1. Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease
-  2. Strengthen health systems and workers
-  3. Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods
-  4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



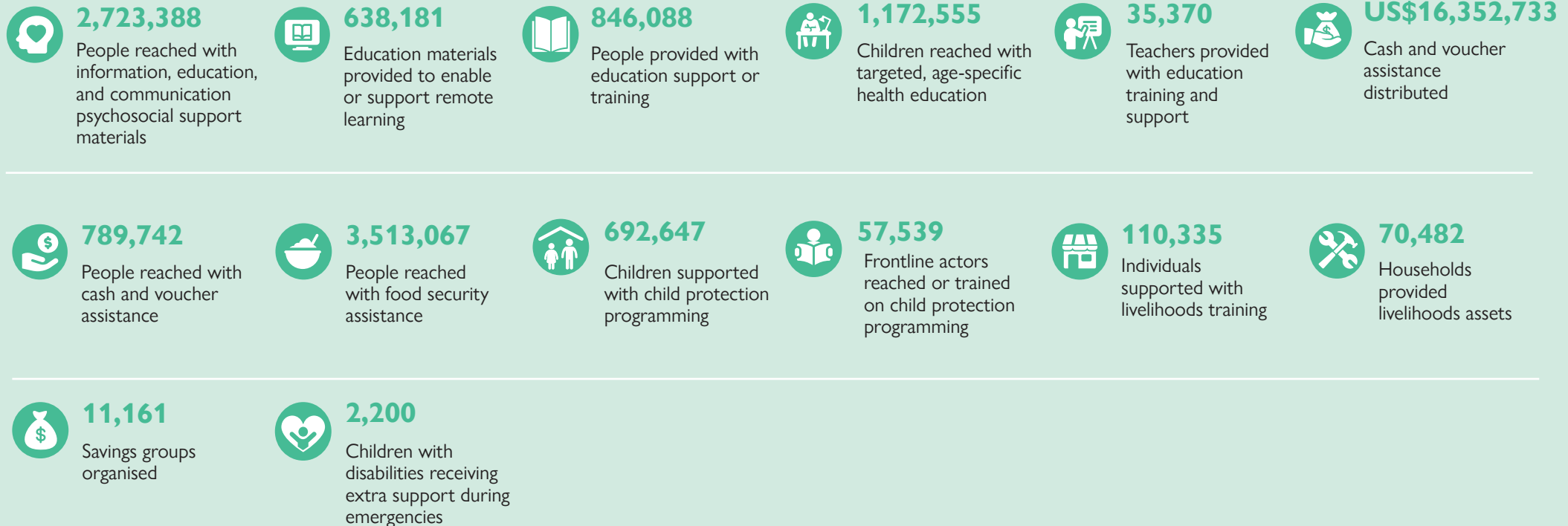
(Based on figures as of 22 October 2021)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



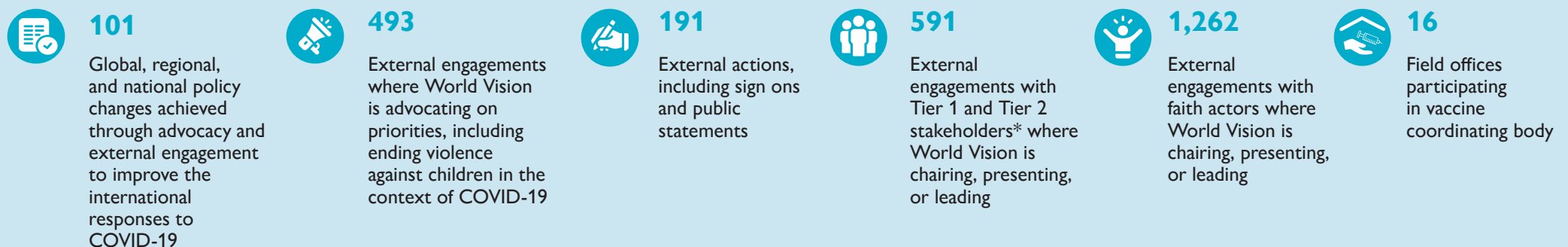
(Based on figures as of 22 October 2021) 3

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



(Based on figures as of 22 October 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 22 October 2021) 4

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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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Joseph Kamara

Regional Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs Director – EAR
E: Joseph_Kamara@wvi.org | P: +254 715 27 94 85
Skype: jkkamara

Maxwell Sibhensana

Regional Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs Director – SAR
E: Maxwell_Sibhensana@wvi.org | P: +277 987 210 58
Skype: Maxwell.sibhensana

Isaac Massaga

Regional Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs Director – WAR
E: Isaac_Massaga@wvi.org | P: +221 781 85 82 54
Skype: misterisac

Jennifer Watson

Regional Communications & Public Engagement Director – EAR
E: Jennifer_Watson@wvi.org | P: +254 780 55 43 94
Skype: jenkaye.watson

Francine Obura

Regional Communications & Public Engagement Director – WAR
E: Francine_Obura@wvi.org | P: +221 786 39 54 91
Skype: fobura

Pamela Koloni Chama

Regional Communications & Public Engagement Director – SAR
E: Pamela_Chama@wvi.org | P: +260 977 78 23 99
Skype: pamela.chama