



# COVID-19 Emergency Response

## Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #10 | 30 July 2020

### Situation Overview

**COVID-19 Cases: 566,449**

**COVID-19 Deaths: 9,447**

The virus continues to spread with a linear daily increment as most of the countries in East, Southern and West Africa relax their confinement measures - schools and markets are reopening, public gatherings are resuming. World Vision is concerned by the increasing risk of a wider transmission and appeals for the intensification of prevention measures and support to health systems for mass testing and surveillance.

World Vision is also concerned by the reported increase in gender-based violence as the economic challenges set in and appeals to national governments and donors to protect ongoing humanitarian and development assistance for the most vulnerable as there is a growing risk that other health issues - malaria, HIV and AIDS, and immunization of children - may be de-prioritised.

COVID-19 induced economic challenges have come at a time when the region is at the crossroads of multiple disasters ranging from conflict, climate shocks, pests - locust invasion, Fall Army Worm - and social challenges, such as high unemployment and endemic poverty that put millions in need of humanitarian assistance. World Vision appeals for increased investments to support critical lifesaving interventions and recovery initiatives.

*(COVID-19 case and death figures for 26 countries. Source:WHO, 27 July 2020)*



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



### People Reached\*:

**22,892,796**

**Men 6,379,531** **Women 6,976,355**

**Children 9,536,910**

**Boys 4,595,526** **Girls 4,941,384**

*\*people reached figures are lower than previously reported due to corrections in counting methodology*

*(Based on figures as of 24 July 2020)*

### Key Messages



World Vision is concerned about the impact that the COVID-19 health crisis will have on the poorest and most vulnerable, and the risk it poses to already stretched basic social services and pre-existing high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This is especially the case amongst refugee and internally displaced populations.



We are active on the ground and scaling up our prevention and response work across Africa, including in fragile contexts. The coronavirus response comes on top of climate change effects such as recurrent drought, torrential floods and locust invasions – all destroying crops and livelihoods. Estimates indicate that 115 million people will require food assistance across the African continent<sup>1</sup>. Response work includes preventing loss of progress made towards the global Sustainable Development Goals.



While Africa is yet to reach the peak of COVID-19 case-loads, World Vision's response will be focusing its efforts on recovery, especially livelihood interventions. Financial and technical resources will be required to support recovery.



World Vision urges the world to focus on the most vulnerable children, especially those living in communities with low access or weak health systems, and those already battling conditions such as tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and malaria. They must not be left behind and funding for COVID-19 resources must not be diverted from their treatment, care and support.



World Vision is concerned with the increased incidences of violence against children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and warns of the long-term risk of increased child marriage and child labour. We urge governments to ensure continued functioning of child-friendly reporting mechanisms such as SOS hotlines to enable children's protection.

<sup>1</sup> Southern Africa Preliminary Multisectoral Analysis, RIASCO – 9 July 2020, and FAO-WFP Analysis of acute food insecurity hotspots July 2020



**RESPONSE GOAL**

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

**Strategic Objectives**



1. Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of disease



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



3. Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



**11,526,588**

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



**1,189,296**

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



**2,185,260**

Community members provided with preventive materials



**679,898**

Handwashing supplies distributed



**131,934**

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



**68,971**

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



**63,033**

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



**31,385**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



**59,200**

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

*(Based on figures as of 24 July 2020)*

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



**68,960**

Community health workers trained and supported



**59,849**

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



**2,057,986**

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



**1,744,411**

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



**4,703**

Medical facilities assisted



**104,531**

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



**14,285**

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



**362**

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



**4,087**

People provided with transportation support

*(Based on figures as of 24 July 2020)*

## OBJECTIVE 3: Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



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



*\*figure is lower than previously reported due to corrections in counting methodology*

*^Examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders include WFP, WHO, Global Fund, UNICEF, UNHRC, UNOCHA. and national governments*

*(Based on figures as of 24 July 2020)*

## BURUNDI

- Signed framework agreements with 13 faith-based organisations to implement COVID-19 response plan in seven provinces. World Vision received two recognitional certificates from the government for contributions towards the country's national COVID-19 response.
- Continued advocacy to ensure full implementation of preventive measures across the country, in collaboration with faith-based organisations, UN agencies and other international non-governmental organisations.

## ETHIOPIA

- World Vision is working closely with the Federal Ministry of Health, the Ethiopia Public Health Institute, and UN agencies in reviewing the national preparedness and response plan for COVID-19. Collaborations are ongoing to update the preparedness and response plan based on scenario planning (including impact of measure and type of population affected) to strengthen coordination of preparedness and response operations at national and subnational levels.
- **Continued collaboration with faith leaders to better approach and reach wider community structures in a sustainable manner. World Vision trained 65 faith-based organisation leaders to help curb the spread of the virus.**

## KENYA

- Engaged 240 faith leaders across World Vision's area programmes. Sensitised faith leaders have been quite instrumental in disseminating key messages on COVID-19 to their congregations following the recent reopening of places of worship. They have also been reaching out to congregants through WhatsApp group platforms and Facebook. In the northern region of Kenya, faith leaders have been involved in area advisory committee meetings on child protection.

- Contributed to policy changes on COVID-19 guidelines for care of children in Kenya, COVID-19 community health response minimum standards, and guidelines on continued provision of community health services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## RWANDA

- Engaged Ministry of Education on preparations for the reopening of schools scheduled for September.
- **Continued collaboration with faith leaders to support the establishment of handwashing facilities around worship premises.**
- As part of continuing awareness initiatives, World Vision-led radio talk shows conducted to promote positive parenting and encourage parents to support their children's remote learning have reached 463,177 parents.

## SOMALIA

- In response to community queries on transmission of COVID-19 through fruits, vegetables and livestock, World Vision has ramped up risk communications messaging through motorised campaigns and door-to-door hygiene promotion and rolled out a series of animation videos to create awareness.
- **Following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in Somaliland, faith leaders organised into Community Hope Action Teams (CHATs) across World Vision's operation areas are working with Government to ensure compliance to directives on preventing the spread of the virus in mosques and during Madrasa.**

## SOUTH SUDAN

- World Vision continues to boost its awareness campaign through project teams, radio programmes and information, education and communication (IEC) materials to keep community members aware and better able to protect themselves from COVID-19. Further collaboration and

partnerships with faith leaders, community volunteers, local authorities and agencies is also helping to keep the public aware of risks.

- **Collaboration with faith leaders to utilise FM stations such as Kuajok 99 FM and Twic Mayardit 90.7 FM in Warrap State to reach more people beyond World Vision's operation areas.**

## SUDAN

- Continued engagements with the Federal Ministry of Health to address stigmatisation as an issue, and include anti-stigma messaging in response activities.
- **World Vision's continued collaboration with over 60 faith leaders to spread awareness messages on COVID-19 prevention during religious events has been greatly appreciated by community members across our operation areas.**

## TANZANIA

- **Facilitated faith leaders trainings to support the sensitisation of community members on facts and risks around COVID-19.**

## UGANDA

- Collaborated with religious leaders to provide messages of hope to 1,682 households on key issues affecting them during the ongoing pandemic. Faith leaders sensitised by World Vision continue to provide psychosocial support, counselling and guidance to households to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Facilitated dialogues and engagements with like-minded actors to present a strong case for a policy to safeguard all children against all forms of injustice and violence in the country at increased risk during the pandemic.

\*The country highlights in bold feature our work with faith leaders.

- Through use of data, World Vision played a lead role in illustrating the plight of the most vulnerable children in Uganda, and has been at the forefront of engaging the Ugandan Parliament to consider and expedite approval of a sexual offences bill. The Cabinet of Uganda, having approved the Uganda Child Policy in June, increased the national education budget to address issues of home schooling.



## Southern Africa Region

It is the harvest season in Southern Africa and different countries are conducting their seasonal vulnerability assessment to determine those that may require assistance. The number of those who will require assistance is likely to be higher than usual given the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods (especially in urban areas). World Vision is calling for timely mobilisation of resources as these will be required earlier than the onset of lean season.

### ANGOLA

- **Ongoing interventions to strengthen capacities and increase preparedness of faith leaders during the pandemic, so that they have clear action plans concerning worship activities and essential steps to curb the spread of the virus.**
- Vulnerable children and families continue to benefit from the distribution of masks and hand-washing soap that World Vision distributed in rural areas with the objective of limiting the spread of COVID-19.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Trained 80 young people as community reporters to document and share COVID-19 communication and preventive messaging within their communities. Participants were drawn from Maluku, Kisantu, Kasangulu, and Mbanza Ngungu.

- Through its Ebola response in North Kivu, World Vision worked with 181 faith leaders to identify beneficiaries for dignity kits, and mobilised community members for distribution activities.
- **Conducted first ever Training of Trainers (ToT) for faith leaders in urban contexts under the Channels of Hope approach.** Through support from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Unilever and Irish Aid, 91 faith leaders were equipped to help their communities prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### ESWATINI

- **Mobilised and sensitised faith leaders to raise awareness among congregants on ways to curb the spread of COVID-19.** World Vision conducted a virtual training with faith leaders during the reporting period.
- World Vision continued with its pre-COVID-19 programme of installing water supply systems which will complement the hygiene behavior change communication.

### LESOTHO

- **Ongoing distribution of food packs to communities within World Vision's operation areas in response to rising cases of COVID-19, and continued collaboration with faith leaders to promote best practices for preventing the spread of the virus.**

### MALAWI

- Collaborated with Fishers Trainers and Senders Ministry to reach 240 children across World Vision's Nkhoma Area Programme through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities with messages in adherence to COVID-19 prevention guidelines.
- World Vision continued with its pre-COVID-19 programme of installing water supply systems (to date 17 new boreholes, 25 rehabilitated boreholes, and 10 community water taps for piped water) which will complement the hygiene behavior change communication.

## MOZAMBIQUE

- Continued work with faith communities to translate preventive materials into local languages. Translated materials will be made available by World Vision and local faith leaders to communities in Gaza province as a contribution to national COVID-19 prevention efforts.
- World Vision continued with their pre-COVID-19 programme of installing water supply systems which will complement the hygiene behavior change communication to contain COVID-19 transmission.

## SOUTH AFRICA

- Due to the high levels of infection in South Africa, World Vision has intensified its efforts to protect field workers and beneficiaries against the virus. The organization continues to share COVID-19 awareness and prevention

messaging with over 500 faith leaders via WhatsApp throughout the country. In addition, awareness campaigns through Facebook, SMS and email are reaching over 950 people.

## ZAMBIA

- Mobilised dialogues with relevant bodies to promote the adoption of preventive measures against COVID-19 across the country. Home and online learning has been encouraged by authorities to protect children.
- World Vision continued with its pre-COVID-19 programme of installing water supply systems which will complement the hygiene behavior change communication for COVID-19 transmission prevention.

## ZIMBABWE

- In an effort to scale up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in local communities, World Vision facilitated the training of 27 pastors, staff and government officials on psychological first aid (PFA). Participants trained will train other community members on MHPSS and offer PFA as part of mitigating effects of COVID-19.
- World Vision continued with its pre-COVID-19 programme of installing water supply systems which will complement the hygiene behavior change communication to prevent COVID-19 transmission.



## West Africa Region

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- With support from World Food Programme, World Vision added 27,000 beneficiaries to our cash distribution in Bangui to cater for the need of the people most affected economically by the COVID-19 crisis. Another 50,000 will be added in August, bringing the number of beneficiaries of our food programme to 400,000. At every food and cash distribution, beneficiaries receive COVID-19 awareness messages
- Over the last two weeks:
  - Trained 36 community leaders on our Channels of Hope approach to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - Distributed 30 hand-washing kits to the Platform of Religious Denominations of Bangassou
  - Provided 60 faith leaders with basic psychosocial support training for COVID-19 response

### CHAD

- Engaged 199 faith leaders using the Channels of Hope approach for wider dissemination of messaging on preventive measures.

### GHANA

- Promoted the inclusion of mortuary workers in infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity-building exercises. World Vision engaged the Ministry of Health's Mortuary and Funeral Facilities Agency (MoFFA) of the Ghana Health Service on appropriate capacity-building for frontline workers, especially on IPC. Mortuary workers have been identified as having limited knowledge and skills in IPC and are inadequately equipped to render care to COVID-19 cases.
- World Vision's Faith and Development (F&D) Unit, in collaboration with The Light Foundation (TLF) - an Islamic non-governmental organisation, delivered

interfaith COVID-19 messages through TLF's Facebook Live Platform. World Vision's Faith in the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Child Protection and Advocacy (CPA) guidelines and approaches were used in the development of key messages. Topics covered by World Vision's F&D leadership included: "Faith Action in COVID-19: Addressing Stigmatisation" and "Coping with Worry during COVID-19". Broadcasts have an average weekly audience of 45,000 people.

### MALI

- Continued dissemination of messages through local radio stations, in collaboration with religious leaders (Christians and Muslims). Messages are broadcast in five languages.

## MAURITANIA

- World Vision continues to lobby parliamentary groups for women's rights. As a result, the Council of Ministers considered and approved a bill on combating violence against women and girls, which has been exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19.

## NIGER

- Coordinated the dissemination of prevention and awareness messaging to communities within World Vision operation areas through radio broadcast, with a potential reach of over two and a half million people.
- Facilitated the distribution of leaflets to over 4,500 children registered under our sponsorship programme who can read.

- Provided preventive materials to over 2,700 individuals, and supported the installation of four handwashing devices to community health centres.

## SENEGAL

- Continued collaboration with local authorities, faith leaders and community leaders to promote the strict respect and implementation of prevention measures in schools across World Vision's operation areas across the country. Senegal's Ministry of Education developed and published a national-level health protocol for promoting COVID-19 preventive measures in schools as part of reopening readiness actions.
- Facilitated a preparatory meeting with a group of national experts from the Ministry of Health and Ministry in charge of Family and Child Protection to deliberate on response activities.
- Distributed preventive materials to 208 vulnerable persons.

## SIERRA LEONE

- With the President of Sierra Leone, World Vision launched a mobile training and support (MOTS) platform for the training of health workers on the COVID-19 pandemic. World Vision also supported 400 peripheral health units, plus seven COVID-19 treatment centres, children and maternity hospitals with infection prevention and control (IPC) and cleaning materials.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, World Vision conducted training for 140 frontline health staff on IPC and COVID-19 case definition.
- Mobilised faith leaders to establish a cohort of 300 members to disseminate COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages through social media platforms.
- Supported 9,363 vulnerable households with hygiene promotion materials and messages.



World Vision staff working to raise awareness on the use of sanitisers to clean hands and masks to prevent COVID-19 infections in Laisamis, Kenya. ©World Vision

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