



Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #12 | 17 September 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 911,168

COVID-19 Deaths: 20,593

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns are devastating livelihoods. UN OCHA'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. According to a recent [World Vision study](#), as many as one 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 (Internally Displaced Persons and refugees) and migrant workers across East, West and Southern Africa. In East Africa for example, the World Food Programme has reduced food rations for refugees.¹

It is reported that gender-based violence and mental health challenges are also increasing due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust infestation, and flooding across different parts, countries in Africa are facing a triple threat of issues from health, climate change, and a loss of livelihoods. Desert locusts have devastated vegetation in East Africa, while floods in West and parts of East Africa have resulted in loss of life and displacement, damaged infrastructure, affected access to basic services and disrupted crop planting.

¹ <https://www.wfp.org/news/food-rations-cut-refugees-eastern-africa-coronavirus-stretches-resources>

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 26 countries. Source: WHO, 14 Sep 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

25,944,161

Men 6,926,200 Women 7,668,476

Children 11,349,485

Boys 5,408,400 Girls 5,941,085

(Based on figures as of 11 Sep 2020)

Key Concerns

We urge governments, donors, and the global humanitarian community to:



Increase funding interventions addressing the most vulnerable populations such as Internally Displaced Persons and refugees especially children.



Scale-up of efforts to strengthen prevention and reporting of gender-based violence.



Document and estimate the cost of the long-term impact of school closures and propose mitigation methods to overcome the long-term impacts for advocacy purposes.



Support national governments to safely open schools and put in place systems curtailing COVID-19 transmission so that children return to school.



Advocate for accelerated vaccines access for the poorest and most vulnerable, as rich governments rush to pre-order stockpiles of promising vaccines.



Address financial and logistical challenges faced by governments to stock-up anti-retroviral drugs which is limiting service provision and might result in failure of people living with HIV/AIDS adhering to treatment



Amplify the voices of children whose well-being has been affected by conflict and lockdowns, and advocate for regional economic blocs to facilitate protection of civilians and expedite conflict resolution.



Keep focus on water, hygiene, and sanitation interventions as the Africa Development Bank estimates that more than 40% of the population across sub Saharan still lack access to clean water which is a pre-requisite in hygiene and containment of COVID-19².

² <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-water-and-sanitation-projects-critical-preparedness-covid-19-pandemics-37745>



6 Months On

Children in Uganda showing how they are keeping themselves safe from COVID-19 by wearing masks. ©World Vision

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched the 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 disease and reduce its impact on the world's most vulnerable children and families. Across Africa, World Vision:

- Consistently mobilised engagement of faith leaders for joint action against the pandemic. For example, World Vision partnered with faith leaders to raise awareness on COVID-19 and support dissemination of gender-based violence prevention messages through WhatsApp and radio platforms.
- Trained health workers to disseminate the location and process for COVID-19 testing and quarantine facilities.
- Made significant strides in increasing access to water and hand washing facilities in strategic areas such as health centres and hospitals.
- Procured and provided local and national governments with critical personal protective equipment at a time when they were in high demand and unavailable in local markets.
- Supported governments in setting up and maintaining quarantine spaces to reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- Negotiated with governments for ongoing humanitarian assistance to be classified as essential services and the adaptation of standard operating procedures e.g. for food and cash distribution in adherence to social distancing protocols.
- Adapted technical programmes to ensure contribution of ongoing programmes to respond to COVID-19.
- Continued installation or rehabilitation of water supply systems through projects that were ongoing prior to COVID-19 which reinforced COVID-19 prevention messaging.
- Implemented various home-schooling models such as village level small-group (10 students), reading clubs, distribution of work books, and piloting of delivery of school lessons through the VIAMO digital platform.
- Prepared for school opening by supporting the sanitising of schools, local production of face masks for use by students and orientation of teachers on how to achieve social distancing within the classroom environment.



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



15,622,443

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



1,525,542

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



6,968,651

Community members provided with preventive materials



1,128,666

Handwashing supplies distributed



208,499

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



96,474

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



64,850

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



35,786

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



66,651

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



81,901

Community health workers trained and supported



244,093

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



2,573,462

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



2,075,354

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



8,924

Medical facilities assisted



122,279

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



103,767

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



534

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



4,927

People provided with transportation support

(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

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



(Based on figures as of 11 September 2020)

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 11 September 2020)

BURUNDI

- Distributed 1,411 hand washing kits, thermo-flashes and cloth masks to faith based organisations and faith leaders.
- Trained 373 community health workers on COVID-19, prevention, detection and management.
- Distributed 2,251 COVID-19 information education communication materials, in health facilities, schools, markets, churches and offices.
- Reached more than 3,700 vulnerable communities through cash transfers worth US\$ 54,745.

ETHIOPIA

- **Collaborated with three faith-based organisations to create awareness through religious leaders and encourage communities to participate in COVID-19 testing campaign.**
- Worked with community health workers to reach vulnerable children and families that are affected by COVID-19.

KENYA

- Engaged with the National Council for Children Services to influence the review of child participation guidelines. The Council committed to include virtual child participation mechanisms in view of COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Engaged faith leaders in sensitisation meetings for COVID-19 prevention in Elgeyo Marakwet in the northern region of Kenya.**

RWANDA

- Reached most vulnerable households through cash transfers.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health, World Vision [inaugurated 49 modern hand-washing facilities](#) set up at hospitals and health centres, to ensure communities are equipped with prevention measures against COVID-19. Earlier this year, World Vision also partnered with the

Ministry of Health in the construction of improved hand-washing facilities at 47 hospitals and two health centres in different parts of the country, through a RWF 290,000,000 (approximately \$300,000) joint project.

SOMALIA

- Supported internally displaced persons to access water through water trucking, following riverine flooding which have displaced more than 130,000 people.
- **Held a meeting with 17 faith leaders in Hargeisa, Somaliland to discuss progress on COVID-19 response, challenges and get input into the implementation approach.**
- Collaborated with the Federal Government's Ministry of Health and partners to support the development of risk communication messages in form of animated videos that are disseminated through social and electronic media to raise awareness on COVID-19. [A 15-episode radio drama on COVID-19 has been developed and is currently airing.](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

- **Trained 168 faith leaders to equip them to support the COVID-19 campaign through awareness creation.**

SUDAN

- Continued to support the Ministry of Health in the COVID-19 response.
- Supported community leaders to create awareness on COVID-19 through radio and television broadcasts.

TANZANIA

- **Trained 40 faith leaders to integrate World Vision's Empowered World View approach with COVID-19 response.**

UGANDA

- Participated in the development of the Violence Against Children in schools roadmap, which gives guidance on the emergency accelerated response efforts reflecting both current priorities and post-COVID-19 lockdown priorities.
- **More than 108 faith leaders conducted outreach in communities to offer psychosocial support and create awareness on COVID-19 reaching more than 4,000 children and their families.**



Jen, 25, is a South Sudanese refugee living in Maji III refugee settlement in Adjumani district, Uganda. Jen is among 45 youth that were trained on vocational skills by World Vision in 2019. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Jen was among 10 youth from her tailoring class who started making facemasks for sale. ©World Vision



ANGOLA

- Continued to work with faith leaders in dissemination of COVID-19 preventive messages. The faith leaders distributed masks and handwashing soap to vulnerable children and their families.
- Provided Bible study materials for children. The materials were distributed to parents through churches for use to teach their children during lockdown.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Provided books to more than 8,000 children in Kalemie to support them in remote learning.
- Reached more than 36,000 people including more than 4,700 children in conflict affected areas, through food distribution.
- Reached 876 faith leaders with COVID-19 messages through the VIAMO platform, using short message services (SMS), which they adapted for their audiences.**
- Engaged with the Government and multi-sector partners to revise the guidance for COVID-19 messages to align with the changing context as the country's borders open, resumption of free movement and to ensure the inclusion of child-focused messages.

ESWATINI

- Reached more than 181,000 people through a gender-based violence and COVID-19 prevention campaign, conducted in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency.
- Continued to disseminate COVID-19 prevention messages through church leaders.**

LESOTHO

- Monitored standards in four health facilities in Berea district to ensure compliance with public health regulations 2020. This was done in collaboration with the District COVID-19 Operations Centre and the data that was collected will be used for resource mobilisation and advocacy.
- Shared guidelines on safe and dignified burials for COVID-19 victims, with the National COVID-19 Secretariat.
- Continued to work with faith leaders to disseminate COVID-19 messages to congregants.**

MALAWI

- Held a meeting with two Government ministers to lobby for the reopening of schools as children are being negatively affected by schools closure.
- Partnered with faith leaders in disseminating COVID-19 prevention messages to their congregants.**
- Introduced home schooling model, where parents are trained to support their children as they learn at home. This has proved to be an effective method especially for children in lower classes who need guidance in order to effectively learn.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Facilitated a three-day special prayer meeting for 50 faith leaders, to pray for God's intervention at a time when the country's woes are being compounded by COVID-19 and conflict in the north.**
- Provided psychosocial support for children and parents through a series of special programmes jointly produced by World Vision and Mozambique's main television broadcaster TVM.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Trained leaders from the South African Council of Churches to equip them to communicate effectively.
- Reached 500 churches with COVID-19 preventive messages.
- Reached 328 church leaders through provision of technical support to assist them in preparing for re-opening of churches.

ZAMBIA

- Worked with faith communities to strengthen 38 Congregational Hope Action Teams (CHATs) in Sinazongwe Area Programme. The CHATS will be instrumental in ensuring that congregants are adhering to the Ministry of Health guidelines.

ZIMBABWE

- Created community awareness on COVID-19 through faith leaders. The messages were disseminated via WhatsApp.
- Collaborated with faith leaders to provide mental health and psychosocial support to COVID-19 affected households.

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



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- Reached more than 2 million people including more than 960,000 children and 1,626 religious leaders through country-wide awareness creation on COVID-19.
- Purchased medical supplies worth US\$ 787,790, to support the Ministry of Health COVID-19 response.
- Distributed food and cash vouchers to more than 350,000 people.

GHANA

- Held a COVID-19 training workshop for 22 faith leaders (11 Pastors and 10 Imams) and one kid's club facilitator at Karaga Area Programme, to equip them with knowledge and skills to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messages and foster hope among affected communities.

MALI

- Trained 10 traditional communicators on COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Sensitised 426 religious and community leaders on the seven vital actions for religious communities.
- Trained 160 young Christian leaders on the role of the church in the fight against COVID-19.
- Trained 14 faith leaders on World Vision's Channels of Hope approach for COVID-19.
- Distributed 10,269 handwashing materials to communities and internally displaced persons.
- Constructed handwashing stations in six health centres.
- Reached more than 4,800 people including internally displaced persons through distribution of cash vouchers.

MAURITANIA

- Collaborated with civil society organisations in World Vision's Hidden Hero campaign.
- Supported the Ministry of Education to ensure there is a safe and healthy environment for children.
- Continued to work with religious leaders to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messages.

NIGER

- Reached more than 6,000 people with COVID-19 preventive messages and provided COVID-19 preventive materials to more than 22,300 people.
- Provided PPE to 380 medical personnel.
- **Distributed 220 handwashing kits to churches, mosques and schools.**
- Reached more than 2.5 million people through radio broadcasts with COVID-19 preventive messages.
- Supported training of 40 health personnel on COVID-19 symptom recognition and appropriate first aid.

SENEGAL

- Reached more than 4,400 people through home visits conducted by the Integrated Community Monitoring and Alert Committee who were trained by World Vision.
- Reached more than 369,000 people with COVID-19 preventive messages through radio broadcast shows on Salémata FM, and Kédougou FM.

- Trained 216 community health workers on COVID-19 prevention and management measures in Media Yero Foulah health district.
- Distributed masks and soap to more than 1,200 World Vision sponsored children in Tomboron Area Programme.
- Organised a televised debate which focused on advocating for child protection and calling for special attention to children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The panelists included Joining Forces Coalition partners, the Ministry in charge of child protection, a Muslim religious leader and World Vision's National Director for Senegal.

SIERRA LEONE

- Worked with the Inter-Religious Council, resulting in the formation of a taskforce at the chiefdom levels. The responsibility of the taskforce will be to ensure congregants are well informed about COVID-19 policies and strategies.



Matthew Sakala a World Vision Zambia staff teaching 12-year-old Beauty, a World Vision sponsored child, how to wear the new mask he gave her after teaching her about COVID-19 prevention. ©World Vision

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

We would like to thank our generous donors, partners, and supporters including:



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