



Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #15 | 14 December 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 1,314,155

COVID-19 Deaths: 31,615

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to lockdowns have devastated livelihoods. UNOCHA'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 rates. According to a recent [World Vision study](#), as many as 1 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 (i.e. internally displaced persons and refugees) and migrant workers across east, west, and southern regions. In East Africa, for example, the World Food Programme has reduced food rations for refugees.¹

Reports indicate that gender-based violence and mental health challenges are also increasing due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

Countries across sub-Saharan Africa are facing a triple threat of issues from health, climate change, and loss of livelihoods with the COVID-19 pandemic; desert locust infestations in East Africa devastating vegetation; and flooding in parts of West and East Africa resulting in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure damage, inaccessibility to basic services, and crop disruptions.



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

27,442,411

Men 7,852,035 Women 8,667,266

Children 12,923,110

Boys 6,184,276 Girls 6,738,834

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 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 can return to school



Advocate for accelerated vaccine access for the poorest and most vulnerable, as rich governments rush to pre-order stockpiles of promising vaccines, and address financial and logistical challenges faced by 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



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 in hygiene and containment of COVID-19.²

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](#), as of 12 December 2020)

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

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020)



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



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



2. Strengthen health systems and workers



4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



18,065,367

People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours



2,053,068

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



7,561,982

Community members provided with preventative materials



1,596,486

Handwashing supplies distributed



240,478

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



105,902

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



71,679

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



70,345

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



165,802

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



128,397

Community health workers trained and supported



248,789

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



2,869,178

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



2,214,523

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



12,697

Medical facilities assisted



134,961

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



144,211

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



684

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up



5,025

People provided with transportation support

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020) 2

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



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



**Note: Amounts of external actions have been amended to address errors recorded on the previous situation report.*

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

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020) 3



We would like to thank our generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:



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