



# A Peaceful Christmas & Prosperous New Year.



## West and Central Africa Newsletter



Empowering and Transforming Lives

### REGIONAL LEADER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



### CELEBRATING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



### COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE Situation Report

World Vision is responding to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis through a multi-sectoral approach; working in collaboration with local authorities, frontline health workers, academic institutions, faith leaders and communities, and local NGOs. In our latest Africa Regional COVID-19 Situation Report, find out how we've reached over 27.4 million people so far (including 12.9 million children) with our response interventions covering 26 countries on the continent.

### Research report

As part of our advocacy and child protection work, World Vision recently conducted a research to explore children and young people's views and experiences related to COVID-19 and its indirect impacts. The report, titled 'Act Now: Experiences & recommendations of girls and boys in West Africa on the impact of COVID-19' looks at children and young people's perceptions of how COVID-19 has had an impact on their lives and countries, and seeks to highlight the ways in which they are working to help to stop the spread of the virus and lessen its impacts. Our research included individual and group interviews with 160 children and young people (80 girls and 80 boys) between the ages of nine and 18 from the eight countries across West Africa in which World Vision has operations.



### Impact report

On March 11 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched its largest ever global emergency response. In this report, learn how our efforts are reaching over 322,600 people in Mauritania; helping to limit the spread of the disease and reduce its impact on the most vulnerable children and families across the country.

### World Vision's COVID-19 vaccine response

World Vision is responding to the devastating impact of COVID-19 in more than 70 countries globally, including eight in West Africa. 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 44.7 million in West Africa). We continue to reach millions of children and families, as part of our strategic objectives to limit the spread of COVID-19, strengthen health systems, support affected children, and collaborate and advocate for vulnerable children.

## HIDDEN HERO

### Empowering children and young people to lead change in their communities

One of the ways in which World Vision has been working to support governments across the region in fighting against COVID-19 has been through raising awareness in the communities where we run our projects. Empowered by World Vision, hidden heroes like 18-year-old Zara from Zinder Region have been at the forefront of community sensitisation and ensuring that children, young people, and their families understand what steps to take in order to be safer from contracting the virus. Watch her story, and be inspired to unleash your hidden hero!



### Advocating for children with children in Mali

World Vision empowers children like Salimata to call for an end to all forms of violence within their households, schools and communities. We recognise through Salimata, the enormous contribution of children and youth; important partners and agents for change during the pandemic and beyond.



### Addressing the complex crisis affecting children and communities in the Central Sahel

The complex crisis spanning Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso is one of the fastest growing, most rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situations in the world. In the Central Sahel, nearly 5 million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The time to act to protect the children of the Central Sahel is now. World Vision calls for urgent actions by global leaders and national decision-makers to address the grave situation for girls and boys.



## COUNTRY PROGRAMME UPDATES

### Collaborating to provide an alternative education system for children during COVID-19 in Niger

With Funding from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), World Vision is implementing a project that provides an alternative education system to Maradi children during the COVID-19 pandemic. This intervention based on the 'Unlock Literacy' approach aims to improve the level of children's reading and writing skills.



### World Vision and Global Fund collaborate to reduce malaria-related morbidity and mortality by 50% in CAR

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, and with funding from the Global Fund, World Vision is working to distribute about 917,000 LLINs to 338,995 households; about 33% of the population. The overall objective of the Long-lasting Insecticidal Net (LLIN) mass campaign is to contribute to 50% reduction in malaria-related morbidity and mortality among the general population, including pregnant women and children under five.



### World Vision's agile digital solutions deliver innovative healthcare support in Sierra Leone

In continuing to accelerate Our Promise digitally, World Vision has introduced several effective and cost-efficient digital innovations to aid the Sierra Leonean healthcare system. As part of our COVID-19 response, we have reintroduced the Mobile Training System (MOTS). The MOTS digital learning platform was piloted by World Vision with community health workers using interactive voice response technology (IVR). The platform delivers voice-recorded training content in local languages on the topics of Vaccines and Disease Surveillance, as well as Outbreak Response during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone.



### Promoting the Regreening of Senegal through the Airwaves

Radio programmes are spreading the good work of the Regreening Africa project in Senegal. This is a familiar phrase to the residents of Fatick, Kaffrine, and Kaolack regions in Senegal, where the Regreening Africa project is implementing activities. The project targeting 160,000 households is implemented through a joint collaboration between the World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF, and World Vision's Senegal office. Because of COVID-19, adjusting to the 'new normal' has required ingenious thinking. Community radio remains a simple and reliable means of reaching populations to ensure continuity of services.



## Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration project increases food security for over 800 farmers in Ghana

In 2015, World Vision introduced the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Project in 12-year-old Bismark's community with the support of Computershare and funding from Australia Aid. This trained farmers to prune trees and bushes to protect the soil, restore degraded land and allow trees and bushes to grow, since this helps retain water and nourish the soil instead of the usual practice of burning. Here's how the project has made an impact for over 800 farmers, including Bismark's mother.



## Unicef, WFP and World Vision strengthen the resilience of communities most vulnerable to malnutrition and food insecurity in Mauritania

In collaboration with WFP, World Vision is implementing a UNICEF-funded resilience, livelihoods, and food security project implemented in six Mauritanian Communes of the Moughataa of Kiffa. A recent visit to the project allowed Ms. Marie Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's Regional Director for West and Central Africa and other partners, to exchange with beneficiaries, as well as with administrative authorities and the technical team in charge of implementation and monitoring.



## World Vision's Empowered Worldview model transforms lives in Chad

Maman Mandé followed a training on World Vision's Empowered Worldview model and benefited from the financial contribution of her savings group. She started with the breeding of animals in her yard and weaving with just \$36. Now, she has more than 200 chickens in her poultry farm.



## World Vision and six partners join forces to end violence against children

On August 7th, World Vision and Joining Forces Alliance for Children (JFA) partners signed a €10.7 million grant for a new project, 'Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA)- protecting children during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond'. The project, which seeks to reduce the levels of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect experienced by children and adolescents in five selected countries (Senegal, Kenya, Mali, Ethiopia and Uganda) over the next three years, will see the active participation of more than 718,000 children and adolescents.



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