



COVID-19 Response

Asia Pacific region

Situation report #23 | 22 February 2021



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in **17 countries** in the Asia Pacific, especially in places where children and families are the most vulnerable.

COVID-19 CASES: 13,913,848 DEATHS: 220,324 (COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: [WHO](https://www.who.int), 17 February 2021)

People reached

16,106,189

Men 4,471,765
 Women 4,744,122

Children 6,890,302
 Boys 3,479,494 **Girls 3,410,808**

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

Countries in the Asia Pacific region continue to grapple with the impact of the surge in new COVID-19 cases, including the new coronavirus strains, that forced governments to implement stricter lockdown measures. Asian economies are still struggling, resulting in higher unemployment rates and/or decline in working hours.¹ While much has been done to help communities build back better and plan for long-term recovery, the threat of a new variant and the increasing cases of COVID-19 calls for urgent attention to still provide life-saving essentials to the hardest hit areas.

Several parts of the region were also confronted with natural disasters, such as fires, typhoons, earthquakes, and flooding, which rendered thousands of people, including children, homeless and more vulnerable to the coronavirus. Protection and education issues remain a challenge and a key focus for the humanitarian community to address. There is a need to look into the changes and patterns of vulnerabilities and gaps and zoom into the challenges faced by schools, protection service actors, and health-care facilities in the recovery phase.

¹ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--asia/--ro-bangkok/--sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_764084.pdf



Key concerns



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a sharp digital divide along gender lines in Asia, with girls facing more hurdles than boys in accessing the Internet while also suffering the brunt of rising online abuse. We call on governments and all stakeholders to update, reform, and enact legal frameworks on online harassment and violence against all girls and young women in consideration of specific intersectional characteristics, such as race, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, identity, and expression.



In light of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, national vaccination plans need to have specific mapping of vulnerable populations apart from health workers, the elderly and people with underlying conditions. Plans need to be specific in including refugees and populations living in the urban hotspots.



National vaccination plans need to ensure community engagement and representation in coordination structures created for vaccine roll-out and count. They must include faith leaders and should be backed with long-term and sufficient funding.

Prioritising the needs of children in Cambodia

Stories from the frontlines

Ny, 13, can't stop smiling while looking at the food assistance her family received from World Vision.

"We don't have to worry for at least a month about food!" she exclaimed.

Ny lives with her grandmother in Rukh Kiri district, Battambang, Cambodia, along with her two brothers. Her parents are daily-wage earners in Thailand, earning around US\$20 each day. Due to the impact of the pandemic on businesses and livelihoods, they couldn't go to work every day or earn as much so they have barely been able to send money home to meet Ny and her siblings' needs.

According to a 2020 assessment report by World Vision, 72% of respondents highlighted the significant impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods. This economic downturn made a difficult situation worse for many already-vulnerable families.

World Vision Cambodia, through its COVID-19 Response, distributed food assistance to affected families. For Ny, what they received will not only sustain them for the next 30 days but will also ease her parents' worries as they struggle to make ends meet. Hunger affects a student's concentration and ability to learn, so having enough food also helps Ny to do well in school.

Ny dreams of becoming a teacher one day. "I love studying. I like reading books a lot. I even joined a reading competition with my friend and we won!" she proudly shared.

Aside from food, World Vision Cambodia has also been working closely with the district committees for COVID-19 prevention, local authorities, health centres, and community partners to carry out different awareness-raising activities, such as broadcasting of COVID-19 prevention messages.

In Ny's district alone, 2,258 of the most vulnerable children have been reached through the use of mobile loudspeakers and more than 300 handwashing supplies were distributed to low-income families.

"I'm learning more about proper handwashing and how to better protect myself from the virus. I also get to teach my brothers about these," said Ny.

Since the early 1970s, World Vision has implemented a diverse range of relief and development programmes to benefit vulnerable children in Cambodia. In 2020, 600 staff across nine provinces and the capital city, Phnom Penh, along with generous donors and partners, have positively affected the lives of 2.7 million children and their families and communities.



Ny and her younger brother receive a 30-day supply of food assistance @ Cchim Dara / World Vision



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



6,066,950

People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours



2,235,229

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



4,602,864

Community members provided with preventative materials



1,475,072

Handwashing supplies distributed



1,844,128

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



11,372

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



15,378

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



20,733

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



5,251

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



16,712

Community health workers trained and supported



85,798

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



3,892,707

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



758,828

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



2,581

Medical facilities assisted



107,896

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



23,218

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



295

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set up



1,373

People provided transportation support

(Based on figures as of 19 February 2021)

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



(Based on figures as of 19 February 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 19 February 2021) 4


Regional highlights

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Planning and coordination for a regional COVID-19 impact assessment, a follow-up to World Vision's [Unmasking the impact of COVID-19 on Asia's most vulnerable children](#) report, is underway. It will inform World Vision's adaptations to long-term development plans to address issues caused or exacerbated by COVID-19 and its economic downturn in Asia Pacific.
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In Sri Lanka, a small-scale response was implemented to support children and their communities, following a surge in new COVID-19 cases. Dry ration food packages, handwashing units, hand sanitisers, infrared thermometers, face shields, and other emergency essentials were distributed.
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In Cambodia, World Vision supported the education ministry and UNICEF to conduct a joint education assessment to inform education policy planning and support. Efforts are also underway to support the recovery of returning migrants in Batambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap provinces.
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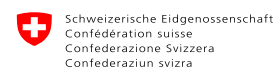
In Laos, migrant returnees who left the Savannakhet quarantine centres received a cash-based intervention and communities in lockdown, including primary schools, were provided with water filters.
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World Vision stands ready to partner with governments, donors, faith leaders, community health workers, and grassroots organisations across the region to implement immunisation campaigns and ensure communities understand the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.



In Thailand, a World Vision staff member hands a relief kit to a family of a child in Sa Kaeo. © Pattapong Kaiyasith / World Vision

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



World Vision

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kunal Shah
Acting Regional Humanitarian
Emergency Affairs Director
Asia Pacific Region
kunal_shah@wvi.org

Lindsey Ruffolo
Regional Grants Acquisition Director
Asia Pacific Region
lindsey_ruffolo@wvi.org

Pradeep Daniel
Humanitarian Emergency Affairs Communications
Asia Pacific Region
pradeep_daniel@wvi.org