



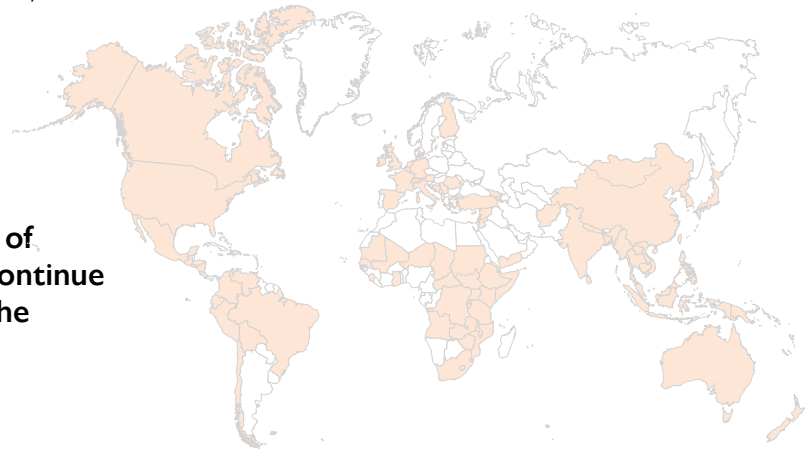
# COVID-19 Response

Situation report #25 | 2 February 2022

World Vision is responding\* to the devastating impact of COVID-19 in more than 70 countries.

Our US\$350+ million response has already exceeded our initial goal of reaching 72 million people, and we continue to implement programmes to help the most vulnerable children.

\*responding includes field programming and/or fundraising



COVID-19 CASES: 376,478,335 DEATHS: 5,666,064

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: WHO, 1 February 2022)

## People reached

75,970,001



Men 20,333,669

Women 22,582,201



Children 33,054,131

Boys 16,135,455

Girls 16,918,675

(Based on figures as of 2 February 2022)

As we approach the second anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still far from seeing the end of this pandemic. Globally, Omicron is driving record-high infections rates with daily cases in the millions. As of the end of January, Omicron accounted for one-third of all coronavirus infections, a number that has been consistently doubling week over week as it supplants Delta.

A recent statement by Dr Kluge, the World Health Organization's Europe Regional Director, expressed hope that the emergency phase may end in 2022 so the world can begin to address the other issues and indirect impacts brought on by the pandemic.

Much will need to happen in order for this to become reality, however. Globally more

than 10.1 billion vaccine doses have been administered – that is 129 shots for every 100 people worldwide. Yet the least wealthy countries have received just 1% of the vaccinations over the last year.

As Omicron emerged in Southern Africa, World Vision's Regional Leader for Southern Africa, Mark Kelly, spoke out about this issue: "The uneven distribution of vaccines not only leaves the disease unchecked, allowing new and potentially more deadly variants to emerge, but also leaves behind less vaccinated countries to have their citizens and economies decimated by waves of COVID-19 infections. The faster everyone can get vaccinated everywhere, the less time COVID-19 variants will have to mutate and spread. Expecting poorer and more vulnerable nations who are often also facing compounded crises, such

as hunger and conflict, in addition to trying to fight the pandemic, is a disproportionate burden; it is simply too much to expect them to be able to rebound from this without global support."

Furthermore, the indirect impacts of COVID-19 will continue to evolve and affect vulnerable children and their families for years to come. Thus, World Vision is committed to continuing to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable children and families by:

- supporting people and health systems as countries face new waves and variants of COVID-19 (e.g. vaccination programming, emergency relief)
- strengthening health systems and workers so they are better prepared to face future health emergencies and disasters
- prioritising efforts to support children

## Key concerns



The impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health is so severe that one in seven surveyed feels so afraid that nothing calms them down, while one in 18 said they feel so hopeless that they do not want to carry on living, a report by World Vision has found.



Numerous gaps were found in a World Vision assessment of national COVID-19 vaccine deployment plans:

- limited planning to address vaccine hesitancy
- unaddressed challenges on how to reach the most vulnerable with vaccine deployment plans
- gaps in coordinating with civil society and communities
- lack of education on vaccines.



A report by World Vision on the pandemic-fuelled child-malnutrition crisis found that:





- food prices have reached the highest levels in a decade as COVID-19 causes incomes to collapse
- healthy food is out of reach for billions worldwide with children bearing the brunt
- pandemic-related malnutrition to kill 250 children per day by the end of 2022.

affected by COVID-19 (e.g. education, child protection, food security, livelihoods)

- fortifying local economies by equipping individuals and communities to recover, thrive, and be more resilient (VisionFund)
- raising awareness about the indirect impacts of COVID-19 so the most vulnerable, particularly children, are not overlooked
- providing children and young people opportunities and platforms to speak about issues affecting them, amplifying their voices with governments and partners, and advocating for opportunities for them to shape and participate in recovery efforts.

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

**Strategic objectives**

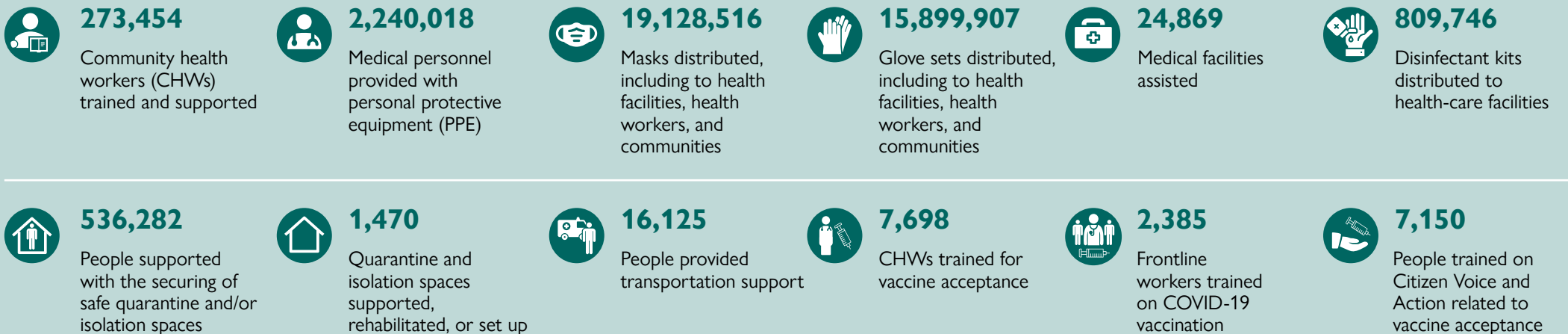
-  1. Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease
-  2. Strengthen health systems and workers
-  3. Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods
-  4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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



*(Based on figures as of 2 February 2022)*

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



*(Based on figures as of 2 February 2022)* 2

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



4,830,182

People reached with information, education, and communication psychosocial support materials



2,086,397

Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning



2,674,130

People provided with education support or training



1,959,332

Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education



75,459

Teachers provided with education training and support



US\$46,125,757

Cash and voucher assistance distributed



3,107,846

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



9,111,818

People reached with food security assistance



1,801,040

Children supported with child protection programming



199,263

Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming



325,124

Individuals supported with livelihoods training



250,325

Households provided livelihoods assets



20,267

Savings groups organised



3,088

Children with disabilities receiving extra support during emergencies



322,117

Loans disbursed by VisionFund to support recovery



US\$185,710,570

Loan assistance distributed by VisionFund to support recovery



210,991

Savings group members supported with VisionFund linkage loans

## VisionFund is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 28 countries globally, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.

### Situation overview

Just under [100 million people fell into extreme poverty](#) during 2020 as a result of restrictions to movement and social interaction. The effects of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns are still felt in many communities where we work and continue to hamper the economic recovery of many of the people with whom we work, which is why VisionFund's COVID-19 Response is focussed on supporting people recover their livelihoods that have been impaired by the long-lasting effects of COVID-19.

### Response highlights

- Surveys conducted by VisionFund showed that 82% of clients in **Guatemala** were experiencing decreased income (54% very much and 28% slightly) compared to 86% (44% very much and 42% slightly) in **Kenya**. In both countries, clients reported that the recovery loan they received from VisionFund allowed them to meet their financial recovery goals (90% and 85% respectively).
- VisionFund recognises that an essential component of our pandemic response is to digitise our services to reduce risks from unnecessary travel and disease transmission through cash handling. At present, VisionFund microfinance institutes in **Guatemala, Mexico, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Mali, Uganda, and Senegal** are upgrading their systems to enable mobile payments and disbursements for clients, meaning that paperwork and travel to branch offices are reduced in order to access financial services.
- Another key element of VisionFund's Response is to help savings groups (organised by World Vision as well as other partners) to recapitalise cash savings eroded due to COVID-19 health concerns and the impact of lockdowns by putting extra money back into the savings groups. Linkage loans have allowed more than 89,000 savings group members (around 73% of whom are women) in **the DRC, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia** to re-plant, re-stock businesses, and meet household needs, which has enabled loan recipients to increase their household incomes and become more resilient to shocks. VisionFund plans to expand this loan product to savings groups located in **Kenya and Senegal** in 2022.

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



383

Global, regional and national policy changes achieved through advocacy and external engagement to improve the international responses to COVID-19

- World Vision launched the **global Price Shocks report** to warn about the impending child malnutrition pandemic. This is due to a perfect storm of sky-rocketing food prices, lower incomes, reduced nutritional services, and disrupted food supply chains as a result of COVID-19.
- World Vision **Ecuador**, alongside CARE, ChildFund International, British Embassy, UN Women, Plan International Ecuador, UNFPA, and UNICEF helped adolescent representatives from the Coalition of Girls and Young Women "From Our Voices" prepare an alternative report to the [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) committee. This shadow report to CEDAW focused on the exacerbation of the violation of the rights of girls and women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. World Vision supported the adolescent representatives to present their report to assembly members of the Parliamentarian Group for Women's Rights of the National Assembly in December 2021.



1,337

External engagements where World Vision is advocating on priorities, including ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19

- In association with the Catholic Church, World Vision trained 450 parents and teachers in **El Salvador** on various topics where biosafety measures for children and the importance of vaccination were integrated.
- World Vision supported local health authorities in Kiltu Kara and Boji Dirmeji *woredas* in **Ethiopia** to mobilise and sensitise the communities about COVID-19 vaccines, leading to more than 3,000 individuals to get vaccinated.
- A [joint press release](#) co-signed by World Vision and a coalition of 22 humanitarian organisations raised the alarm on the dramatic food security situation in **Mali**, following COVID-19 pandemic, an issue that was further escalated by World Vision through its global capitals in New York, Brussels, Geneva.



2,484

External engagements with Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders^ where World Vision is chairing, presenting, or leading

- In **Angola**, 20 girls and boys were trained as junior journalists and oriented on how to identify cases of violence against children and engage with decision makers so they can advocate for child rights in their communities and schools.
- Based on a [World Vision survey](#) conducted in **Romania**, World Vision successfully advocated with the Ministry of Education to transfer the responsibility of performing bi-weekly COVID-19 tests on children to their parents, rather than having teachers, who do not have the adequate training or supplies, manage the testing.



34

Field offices participating in vaccine coordinating body

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

*(Based on figures as of 2 February 2022)*

### OBJECTIVE 4.1: Engage communities to ensure programme relevance as context changes, in the overall global results framework



94%

of respondents reported satisfaction with World Vision COVID-19 Response interventions



81%

of respondents reported they received information about World Vision, expected staff behaviour, World Vision programmes, and how to provide feedback



82%

of complaints/feedback from community resolved based on agreed timeline

*(indicator data based on 16 field offices reporting against these indicators as of 12 January 2022)* 4

## Regional overviews

(figures as of 2 February 2022)



### Africa region



**People reached 40,040,966**



**Children reached 17,463,333**

#### Situation overview

Increasing vulnerabilities and worsening humanitarian needs due to COVID-19, conflict, and protracted crises have devastated livelihoods and access to services across Africa. [OCHA](#) reports that need has increased by 70% in [Southern and East Africa](#) over the past two years, and 20 million more people in [West and Central Africa](#) are in need now versus two years ago (i.e. over 123 million people across sub-Saharan Africa).

After a significant increase in new infections and deaths across sub-Saharan Africa was brought on by the Delta variant, followed by a decline in cases. However, the respite did not last long; in November 2021, researchers in [Southern Africa](#) identified a new COVID-19 variant subsequently designated a '[variant of concern](#)' by the World Health Organization (WHO), Omicron brought on a fourth wave of cases that has only started to wane as of mid-January 2022.

The re-introduction of preventative measures has helped to curb the spread of the virus, but will also have a negative economic impact on communities and disrupt health services, including the provision of HIV and AIDS treatments. A 16–30% decrease in HIV testing was found [in Kenya](#) after earlier lockdowns, and a similar [study in South Africa](#) reported a 50% decrease in HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment. COVID-19 restriction measures, such as social distancing, have constrained access to some affected populations, and

school closures and adapted class schedules have resulted in learners losing significant education time.

Reduced funding and lockdowns have also increased vulnerabilities amongst internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers across all regions. In Kenya, the [World Food Programme](#) was forced to reduce food rations for refugees. As of October 2021, refugees have been receiving 52% of a full ration. Additionally, reports indicate that [gender-based violence](#) and [mental health](#) challenges remain high due to lockdowns and lost livelihoods.

Countries across sub-Saharan Africa are facing a quadruple threat of issues from conflict, climate change, and loss of livelihoods alongside the manifold impacts of the pandemic. [Severe food insecurity](#) in the East Africa region is anticipated to persist well into 2022. Protracted and new conflicts, in parts of East, West, and Southern Africa have also resulted in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure damage, inaccessibility to basic services, and crop disruptions.

Governments across the continent have begun rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, albeit at a slow pace, and the WHO's target to achieve 40% vaccination by the end of 2021 was missed in sub-Saharan Africa. Some [challenges](#) countries are facing include poor health infrastructure, a lack of funding for training and deploying medical staff, and vaccine storage issues.



### Asia Pacific region



**People reached 19,457,524**



**Children reached 8,039,362**

#### Situation overview

Many countries in Asia Pacific were reporting a gradual decrease in new cases since October 2021. However, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines all showed an increase in cases and fatalities at the end of December 2021, due to the Omicron variant.

Governments across the [region](#) continue their efforts to provide equitable access to safe and effective vaccines. China (88%), Cambodia (85%), and Vietnam (80%) have [high vaccination rates](#) with approximately three-quarters of their populations or more already fully vaccinated; however, other countries are lagging behind with extremely low vaccine rates. For example, Papua New Guinea has vaccinated dangerously few with just 3% of their population having received any doses. To combat the COVID-19 variants emerging, [countries with access to booster doses](#) also began administering them to priority populations, such as health workers and the elderly. Governments also expanded vaccine eligibility to children 12 and older in China, Cambodia, Thailand, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Laos, Indonesia, and Timor Leste.<sup>1</sup>

Between October and December 2021, the [ASEAN Humanitarian Centre](#) also frequently reported climatic emergencies, such as floods, landslides, typhoons, and tropical storms, all of which compound the impact of COVID-19 across the region. [Typhoon Rai](#) (Odette), a

category 5 typhoon, hit the Philippines in mid-December, affecting over 6.2 million people across 10 regions. Meanwhile, [the humanitarian situation across Myanmar](#) remains volatile, with escalating armed clashes worsening the COVID-19 situation for vulnerable children and their families.

#### Response highlights

- World Vision has secured US\$1.7 million from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership for COVID-19 recovery in **Indonesia** to strengthen communities' health responses in support of COVID-19 prevention and vaccine promotion; improve access to social protection and safe education for vulnerable children and households affected by COVID-19; and increase the capacity of women and people living with disabilities to catalyse inclusive livelihood recovery.
- In the **Solomon Islands**, World Vision has secured €385,938 from the European Union for a COVID-19 livelihoods recovery initiative to strengthen the capacity of savings and producer groups, their access to fishing inputs, and market linkage with buyers.
- Following the launch of [Unmasking II: Childhood Lost](#), World Vision **Laos** published [key findings](#) of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 to be used in external engagements with government partners and international NGO networks to advocate around identified gaps and recommended interventions.



## Regional overviews



### Latin America and Caribbean region



People reached **11,876,774**



Children reached **5,329,825**

#### Situation overview

2022 kicks off with a downgrade of economic growth estimates for Latin America, a region severely punished by the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank [re-estimated](#) the region's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to slow to 2.6%, and the International Labor Organization (ILO) projected that 14 out of every 100 people [unemployed](#) in the world will be from Latin America and the Caribbean.

This further complicates access to food and health for millions of families still coping with the loss of income produced by the crisis. The region has the highest growth of people suffering acute or moderate [food insecurity](#), with 267 million people (13 million more than in 2020). Out of that amount 60 million face hunger according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are the nations where food security deteriorated more severely. Displacement due to food insecurity and loss of employment and income further deepens the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, where over 6 million people have left the country. The year awakes with a grim landscape, with COVID-19 cases spiking across the region and [1,000,000](#) new cases being added every two days. Although the ratio of deaths has decreased with the Omicron variant, the increase in COVID-19 cases is decimating staff in health units throughout the region.

#### Response highlights

- World Vision **Peru** launched a campaign to prevent corporal punishment against children. More than 2,000 people signed a petition asking the government to implement an action plan to eliminate violence. Also World Vision disseminated radio messages to promote the benefits of vaccination for children, reaching over 295 churches.
- In **Nicaragua**, World Vision implemented a campaign called *Clarito*, to promote handwashing, social distancing, and face mask usage to reiterate the importance of COVID-19 prevention; the campaign reached people in over 110 churches throughout the country.
- World Vision met with 56 school principals in **Haiti** on how to implement the recently approved law on positive discipline versus using violence and corporal punishment. Their workshop on this subject reached more than 2,500 people.
- World Vision **Colombia** is strongly promoting faith leaders to share accurate, factual vaccine information with a virtual session called 'Faith and Vaccinations'.
- In **Guatemala**, World Vision provided training and conferred a diploma on comprehensive attention and protection of migrant children to 120 staff of the Guatemalan Migration Institute.

(figures as of 2 February 2022)



### Middle East and Eastern Europe region



People reached **3,224,060**



Children reached **1,564,824**

#### Situation overview

Between October and December 2021, Middle East and Eastern Europe countries faced increased lockdowns and travel restrictions to limit the spread of new COVID-19 variant. Several countries, including **Israel, Cyprus, and Turkey** tightened their travel regulations.

To curb the Omicron spread in **Lebanon**, the ministry of health (MoH) announced a 7pm–6am curfew for unvaccinated individuals or those who had not had a negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test. The new measure did not directly have an impact on World Vision Lebanon's operations, but it did, however, see hundreds of people in Beirut out in protest, lobbying for their individual right to be or not to be vaccinated to be respected.

In **Iraq**, the impact of Omicron is also being felt. Many governmental facilities have introduced restrictions for unvaccinated people, limiting their access to various government services as well their ability to attend different events, such as seminars, ceremonies, and any other meetings, which could have an impact on programme activities in the field.

#### Response highlights

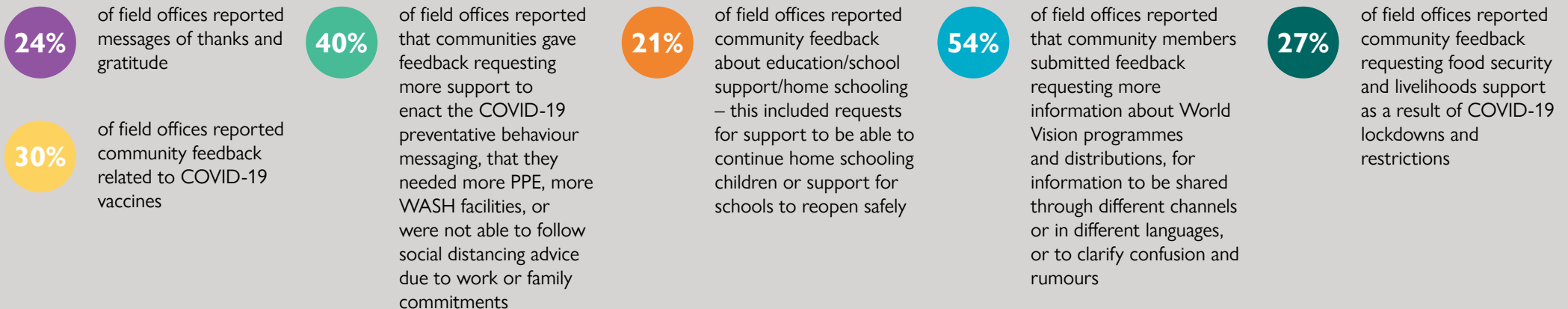
- World Vision's Syria Response negotiated taking over a World Health Organization (WHO)-funded project on epidemiological surveillance of COVID-19. Under this project, 90% of the official testing capacity is ensured in **Northwest Syria**, along with the

support of COVID-19 laboratories, sample collections, transportation, analyses, results reporting, and contact tracing. Furthermore, a new WHO-funded project (US\$710,000) launched on 15 January to run through July 2022. Through partners, World Vision will organise a COVID-19 vaccination campaign covering eight districts and 35 sub-districts in Northwest Syria to spread awareness about the COVID-19 vaccines.

- World Vision **Georgia**, with the funding from the global COVID-19 Response (COVER), started a Channels of Hope training for faith leaders around vaccine promotion and education. The project also aims to support the most vulnerable children with psychosocial support and distribution of hygiene items. The Abkhazia programme will also support around 70 community health workers in 69 primary health care centres with PPE materials.
- On World Children's Day on 20 November, World Vision **Bosnia and Herzegovina** partnered with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and UNICEF in a national-level stakeholder engagement examining the implications of COVID-19 on children's education and mental health in the country. Government institutions, the United Nations, civil society, and, most importantly, child and youth advocates spoke at the event, sharing their authentic experiences and views of workable solutions.

## Humanitarian accountability

A key focus for World Vision's COVID-19 Response is to provide information, consult people on their needs and how they want to participate in their own self-recovery, and take action based on the feedback and complaints we hear from people so that we remain accountable to the children and communities that we serve. Here are the top trends of what communities are telling us this reporting period (October to December 2021):



*(qualitative data is based on narrative reporting from 39 field offices as of 12 January 2022)*

### We listen to communities and adapt our work based on their feedback

Many of the communities that World Vision **Guatemala** serves, such as Panisté, Alta Verapaz have expressed the need to improve the medical facilities and supplies of their local health centres to prevent and treat COVID-19. World Vision has increased projects to restore, renovate, and improve facilities of the public health system in these rural areas.

Following queries from the community on the Omicron COVID-19 variant and ways to recognise the symptoms, COVID-19 awareness campaigns focusing on the new variant were integrated with hygiene promotion awareness messaging by World Vision **Somalia**.

Some people in **Malawi** shared that they were reluctant to get vaccinated based on misinformation being shared that claimed COVID-19 vaccines are a way of controlling reproduction. World Vision responded by raising awareness on the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine and how it protects people from serious illness. Other community members reported that they were facing challenges making ends meet and said they felt that resources they thought were meant to support them were instead being diverted towards addressing COVID-19. In response, World Vision acknowledged the financial challenges people are facing but assured the community that all agreements are being implemented as per donor guidelines and will be seen through to the end of the agreements.

In **Papua New Guinea**, misinformation being spread via social media has had an impact on some of World Vision's project sites where they are raising awareness about COVID-19. To counter the rumours, World Vision is working with provincial health authorities to train community health workers and village volunteers on advocacy and vaccine uptake.

## Resources and publications

### Reports

[Price Shocks: How COVID-19 is triggering a pandemic of child malnutrition](#)

[Unmasked II: Childhood Lost](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination: The Demand Side](#)

[High Risk, Low Priority: Why unlocking COVID-19 vaccine access for refugees and internally displaced communities is critical for children](#)

[COVID-19 Response Plan 3.0](#)

[One year on: COVID-19 Response](#)

[Agile in adversity: How COVID-19 changed the way World Vision works](#)

[Faith in action: Power of faith leaders to fight a pandemic](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Secondary impacts threaten more children's lives than disease itself](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: A perfect storm](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Out of time](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Access denied](#)

[COVID-19 Aftershocks: Deadly waves](#)

[Children's voices in times of COVID-19](#)

[ACT NOW: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19](#)

### Policy briefs

[COVID-19 & the child protection crisis in Afghanistan](#)  
[COVID-19 & the fragile cities in the Northern Triangle of Central America \(English and Spanish\)](#)

[COVID-19 & child protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts](#)

[COVID-19 & risks to children's health and nutrition](#)

[COVID-19 & disruptions to education](#)

[COVID-19 & urgent needs of child-sensitive social protection](#)

[COVID-19 & the risks to children in urban contexts](#)

[COVID-19 & poverty and hunger](#)

[COVID-19 & faith actors](#)

Learn more about World Vision's response to COVID-19, please visit: [www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org).

A year into the socio-political unrest in Myanmar, an estimated 14.4 million people are in dire need of urgent humanitarian aid. World Vision is gravely concerned about the immeasurable impacts on the more than [5 million children](#) who have been traumatised, injured, displaced, or are at risk of being killed.

Pan, 15-years-old, prays that Myanmar will become peaceful so children can grow up safely and live life to their fullest potential. She explains, "I am worried about my education because our learning has been disrupted for about two years due to the impact of COVID-19 and the country's current situation." She left her parents to live with an aunt so she could continue her studies: "If I become an educated person, I will be able to support my family who are really struggling to make ends meet."

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