



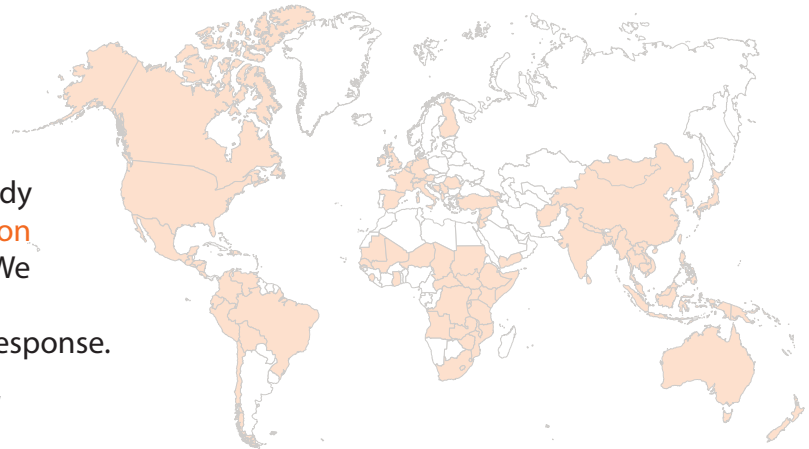
COVID-19 Response

Situation report #26 | 10 May 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 goal of reaching **72 million people**, including **36 million children**. We continue to serve the most vulnerable communities through our COVID-19 Response.

**responding includes field programming and/or fundraising*



COVID-19 CASES: 515,192,979 **DEATHS:** 6,254,140

(COVID-19 case and death figures. Source: WHO, 9 May 2022)

People reached

81,439,346



Men 21,885,880

Women 24,342,075



Children 35,211,391

Boys 17,176,278 Girls 18,035,112

(Based on figures as of 29 April 2022)

Situation overview

March marked the [two-year anniversary of our Response to COVID-19](#). Together, we celebrated the incredible impact of our Response and looked ahead to the challenges that the most vulnerable children and their families will continue to face.

This quarter, a new challenge has emerged for communities struggling with COVID-19 and its indirect impacts: the Ukraine crisis. The Ukraine crisis is making it even harder than it already was to access food and necessities. Countries that were already facing hunger are now facing an even more critical struggle against food insecurity. Wheat supplies from Russia and Ukraine are critical to meeting the food supply needs of the world, but especially for meeting emergency food needs in the Middle East and Africa. Together,

both countries supply 30% of global wheat exports. Some 26 countries around the world get more than half of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine, according to the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP).

As our Response draws to an end, we know that the indirect impacts of COVID-19 will continue to evolve and affect vulnerable children and their families for years to come. The Ukraine crisis is a powerful reminder of the vulnerability created by COVID-19, and how this vulnerability is compounded by crises. Thus, a continuing response to both the current and lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is more essential than ever, which is why we will mainstream our COVID-19 activities into our long-term programming. In order to reduce the impact of COVID-19

on vulnerable children and families, we will continue to:

- prioritise efforts to support children affected by COVID-19 (e.g. education, child protection, food security, livelihoods)
- raise awareness about the indirect impacts of COVID-19 so the most vulnerable, particularly children, are not overlooked
- support people and health systems as countries face new waves and variants of COVID-19 (e.g. vaccination programming, emergency relief)
- strengthen health systems and workers so they are better prepared to face future health emergencies and disasters
- work with local leaders and health systems to encourage acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines

Key concerns



COVID-19 vaccine accessibility and availability remain a global concern, particularly for the most vulnerable people and those living in the fragile contexts. Furthermore, inequitable vaccine distribution, a lack of emphasis on demand creation, insufficient awareness raising or planning around vaccine safety and information campaigns, and exclusion of the most vulnerable from vaccination plans will affect everyone globally.

Only 15% of people living in low-income countries have received at least one dose of the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, and 70% of all available COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in wealthy countries while the poorest countries (that host large numbers of displaced people) – have just 1.3% of vaccines. In early April, the German government co-hosted a leader level meeting, the 'Break COVID Now Summit', aimed at helping raise US\$5.2 billion to meet COVAX's urgent financial needs, including funding for lower-income countries' vaccine distributions supported by the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (Gavi COVAX AMC).

- fortify local economies by equipping individuals and communities to recover, thrive, and be more resilient
- provide 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.

This is the last formal situation report for the global COVID-19 Response. World Vision is in the final stages of a large-scale evaluation of its multi-year global response which will be shared once completed.



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



43,237,164

People reached through promotion of preventative behaviours



7,615,719

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



18,359,587

Community members provided preventative materials



8,983,666

Handwashing supplies distributed



3,402,908

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



480,552

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



147,470

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



149,416

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



207,614

Faith leaders disseminating preventative measures



2,086,396

People reached with vaccine acceptance messaging



46

Studies conducted to inform vaccine messaging



37,968

Faith leaders trained to support vaccine acceptance

(Based on figures as of 29 April 2022)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



291,430

Community health workers (CHWs) trained and supported



2,256,998

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



20,761,431

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



16,384,330

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



25,882

Medical facilities assisted



838,453

Disinfectant kits distributed to health-care facilities



543,356

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



17,179

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated, or set up



24,708

People provided transportation support



9,171

CHWs trained for vaccine acceptance



2,568

Frontline workers trained on COVID-19 vaccination



159,678

People trained on Citizen Voice and Action related to vaccine acceptance

(Based on figures as of 29 April 2022) 2

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



5,028,831

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



2,464,540

Education materials provided to enable or support remote learning



2,887,824

People provided with education support or training



2,226,695

Children reached with targeted, age-specific health education



85,681

Teachers provided with education training and support



US\$54,536,665

Cash and voucher assistance distributed



3,339,974

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



9,734,093

People reached with food security assistance



1,933,188

Children supported with child protection programming



210,580

Frontline actors reached or trained on child protection programming



423,641

Individuals supported with livelihoods training



288,442

Households provided livelihoods assets



30,976

Savings groups organised



3,184

Children with disabilities receiving extra support during emergencies



465,419

Loans disbursed by VisionFund to support recovery



US\$282,619,028

Loan assistance distributed by VisionFund to support recovery



222,369

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.

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.

COVID-19 created a need for write-offs for VisionFund clients and microfinance institutions have lost money because of this. World Vision is supporting these institutions recoveries. VisionFund's 'Recovery Lending for Resilience' project is helping to recapitalise savings groups and microfinance institutions and enable them to continue to support people as they work to recover their livelihoods.

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

VisionFund has now rolled out Finance Accelerating Savings Group Transformation (FAST) loans in eight countries across sub-Saharan Africa, lending to over 3,800 groups and more than 90,000 clients, which in turn benefitted approximately 370,000 children.

VisionFund's microfinance institutes are moving forward with their digitalisation agenda to reduce reliance on cash and paper, reduce costs, and increase clients' convenience. Guatemala, Senegal, Mali and Kenya have implemented new core banking systems that integrate mobile money and tablet solutions that enable loan disbursements and repayments to be done digitally. Progress is also being made in Ghana, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Malawi towards the same objectives.

Two of VisionFund's largest microfinance institutions are still struggling to recover from the twin effects from COVID-19 combined with last year's hurricanes in Honduras and the civil war in Myanmar. In both cases, VisionFund continues to provide recovery loans to clients, despite the fall-out from these compounding crises.

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



431

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

In April, World Vision supported COVAX's global advocacy efforts as part of their [Break COVID Now Summit](#) to highlight ongoing vaccine issues, including: the critical immediate and long-term impacts COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on children around the world, particularly in light of the continued inequity of vaccine distribution how disparities within vaccine distributions, a lack of emphasis on demand creation, and exclusion of the most vulnerable from vaccination plans will affect everyone globally.

World Vision's health expert, Dan Irvine, used this opportunity to reflect on [how an inequitable response to ending the pandemic threatens the global population](#) and requires a global, multilateral collaborative response to achieve COVAX's goals.

World Vision released our second annual report, [Calling the shots: Empowering communities during COVID-19](#). While we acknowledged and celebrated the advocacy accomplishments made by World Vision's offices **around the world** over the last year, we also used this as an opportunity to draw attention to the still rippling aftershocks on Gen C19: 'The COVID-19 generation'.



1,387

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

World Vision's global COVID-19 Response released a new [open-source](#) guidance (in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)) to partners and health and humanitarian networks to empower health workers and organisations working directly with communities globally to effectively counsel families about COVID-19 vaccines and the questions and answers (messages) to use to engage effectively.

As a member of the Intersectoral Health Commission (within **Colombia's** Rescue Plan for Health), World Vision is participating in a workshop to advocate on behalf of the migrant population as part of strategic efforts to improve care and integrate health actions. World Vision also advocated for COVID-19 vaccines, and, in coordination with government partners, supported two vaccination drives which enabled 653 eligible young people and adults to protect themselves from COVID-19.



39

Field offices participating in vaccine coordinating body

In a thematic hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 'Situation of access to sexual and reproductive education for girls, boys, and adolescents', World Vision supported adolescent representatives from the 'From Our Voices' coalition to present on the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic in relation to access to sexual and reproductive education as well as its consequences on the health and rights of girls and young women in **Ecuador**.

(Based on figures as of 29 April 2021)

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



95%

of respondents reported satisfaction with World Vision interventions



90%

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



93%

of complaints/feedback from community resolved based on agreed timeline

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

Regional overviews

(figures as of 29 April 2022)



Africa region



People reached 42,722,520



Children reached 18,550,975

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).

The continent has recorded a sustained decline in COVID-19 cases. Across the Africa region, reported cases have fallen for nine straight weeks since the peak of the fourth wave in early January. COVID-19 [deaths also declined by 37%](#) over this period. While this is good news, the low uptake of COVID-19 vaccines remains a concern. The World Health Organisation has stated that vaccination rates need to increase by six times if the continent is to meet the 70% target set for the middle of 2022.

The Ukraine crisis is impacting access to food. Africa relies heavily on imports like wheat and sunflower oil from Russia and Ukraine, and the crisis has made it much more difficult to access these essentials, often distributed by the World Food Programme. In East Africa, refugees living in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, are experiencing ration cuts as a result of the Ukraine crisis. The effects of ration cuts have compounded the

livelihood impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

Response highlights

- Over 300 faith leaders in **East Africa** were trained in COVID-19 prevention and child protection measures, and they went on to educate their communities. In the month of March, a study was done in Somalia to measure the impact of religious leaders in the society. The main purpose of this assessment was to determine the impact that faith leaders trained by World Vision had on in their communities and congregations, monitor progress, and identify ways for World Vision to continue collaborating with faith leaders for effective service delivery.
- In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) World Vision participated in the WorldVision multi-country COVID-19 study on COVID-19 vaccination for refugees and other displaced persons. This study revealed that these high-risk groups were not prioritised for vaccination. Following these findings, the government's National COVID-19 Response team has included refugees from the Central African Republic who have settled in the city of Zongo on the government's priority list for vaccine deployment.



Asia Pacific region



People reached 20,516,583



Children reached 8,486,887

Situation overview

Countries across Asia Pacific have reported a decreasing number of new COVID-19 cases between the end of January and early March 2022. While this is encouraging, [India still ranks second](#) in total number of cases globally, and [Vietnam](#) has recently recorded one of their highest weekly caseloads ever.

[Governments across the region continue](#) efforts to provide equitable access to safe and effective vaccines to end the COVID-19 Pandemic. **China** (88%), **Cambodia** (83%), **Vietnam** (79%), **Thailand** (72%), **Sri Lanka** (67%), and **Bangladesh** (67%) demonstrate high vaccination rates with two third of their population fully vaccinated. Despite the progress, other countries are still lagging behind with dangerously low vaccination rates; less than a third of people living in **Papua New Guinea** (3.5%) have received one or more doses.⁷ The **Solomon Islands** also has a low rate of COVID-19 vaccine uptake, with only 17% of the populating having received two doses of the vaccine.

In what is already the world's most disaster-prone region, the [ASEAN Humanitarian Centre](#) continues to report frequent climatic emergencies, which compound the impact of COVID-19 and the vulnerability of children across the region. Tropical Cyclone Davi impacted **Vanuatu** in January 2022, causing flooding and power outages across the country. In **Indonesia**, a 6.1 magnitude

earthquake hit Pasaman in **West Sumatra** on the 25th of February. There were also several alerts raised in Vietnam and Myanmar due to severe weather events.

Response highlights

- In **Papua New Guinea**, World Vision has facilitated vaccination trainings for healthcare workers and have trained 83 faith and community leaders to encourage the practice of preventive behaviours and increase the uptake of the vaccine in the communities
- World Vision** also procured and donated laptops to support the COVID-19 and vaccination surveillance in Papua New Guinea.
- The Government of **Indonesia** has planned to declare an endemic status by 1st of May 2022. As part of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) core team, World Vision is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and National Disaster Management Agency to develop the Health Protocol Minimum Standards for an endemic context.
- In response to Typhoon Rai in the **Philippines**, World Vision continues to provide COVID-19 prevention materials and WASH kits for Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) living in evacuation shelters to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

Regional overviews

(figures as of 29 April 2022)



Latin America and Caribbean region



People reached 12,585,785



Children reached 5,648,978

Situation overview

Latin America is seeking to revamp its economies and close the gaps widened by the sanitary and economic crisis that have resulted from the pandemic. Economic growth in 2022 is expected to reach 2.1%, four percentage points less than in 2021. COVID-19 hit Latin America hard, and many lives and livelihoods have been lost. Though the region is only home to 8% of the global population, it accounts for 32% of all COVID-19 related deaths.

As businesses start to reopen and students return to school, there has been much progress made regarding vaccination rates. In Chile, 9 out of every 10 people have their [complete vaccination](#) scheme. Costa Rica and Ecuador register 76% of their population fully vaccinated, followed by Peru and Brazil with 74%. In Honduras, 46.3% of population is fully vaccinated, while 8.5% has partial schemes. Meanwhile, Venezuela and Bolivia have fully vaccinated 49% of their population.

Much progress has been made in promoting vaccines and ensuring access to them in the region, but there remains work to be done. Only 3 out of every 10 people in Guatemala have their complete vaccine scheme, and only 9.3% have partial vaccination.

Response highlights

- **World Vision Peru** trained more than 7,000 teachers in citizenship, self-care and emotional support, among other soft skills, to improve socio-emotional support to their students when they return to face-to-face learning.
- In **Peru**, 15 antennas were installed in Cusco and Ayacucho to supply connectivity to students and facilitate virtual learning.
- **World Vision Honduras** delivered 330 units of school furniture in communities to support the safe return to school. The items include blackboards, desks, chairs, and soccer balls. In addition, 167,638 educational booklets have been distributed nationwide to strengthen children's education during confinement.
- **World Vision Colombia** has reached 79,667 people through advocacy messages, digital content, and face-to-face activities to prevent COVID-19 infections. Preventive messaging aims to ensure a safe return to school for children and the promotion and benefits of vaccination.
- **World Vision Haiti** submitted two advocacy briefs one to the ministry of education and another to the office of people living with disabilities, to urge for actions addressing critical and precarious context of education in post-pandemic Haiti.



Middle East and Eastern Europe region



People reached 3,445,631



Children reached 1,635,670

Situation overview

In February, there was a spike in COVID-19 cases across countries in **Eastern Europe**, the **Caucasus**, and the **Middle East**. **Lebanon**, **Romania**, and **Georgia** all experienced their highest number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic, with Georgia reaching a shocking [5,000 cases per million](#). Despite these jumps in number of cases, fortunately, mortality rate spikes did not rise as drastically or reach the same levels as seen earlier in the pandemic. As of the end of March, [infection and mortality rates were declining dramatically](#).

Ukraine's COVID-19 cases also 'increased significantly' between January and February, peaking in early February with more than 43,000 positive cases in a single day. The number of cases has since dropped, but this is likely due to a reduction in testing and reporting due to the ongoing conflict in the country.

During January to March 2022, most countries across the region had lifted COVID-19 restrictions. For most offices, COVID-19 has started fading into the background or has become one of many factors that pushes people further into poverty. This trend accelerated as the Ukraine crisis worsened. The Ukraine crisis has also significantly affected surrounding countries who are hosting refugees, as well as having a far reaching impact on countries around the world who are either dependent on Russia or Ukraine for imports and/or where spikes

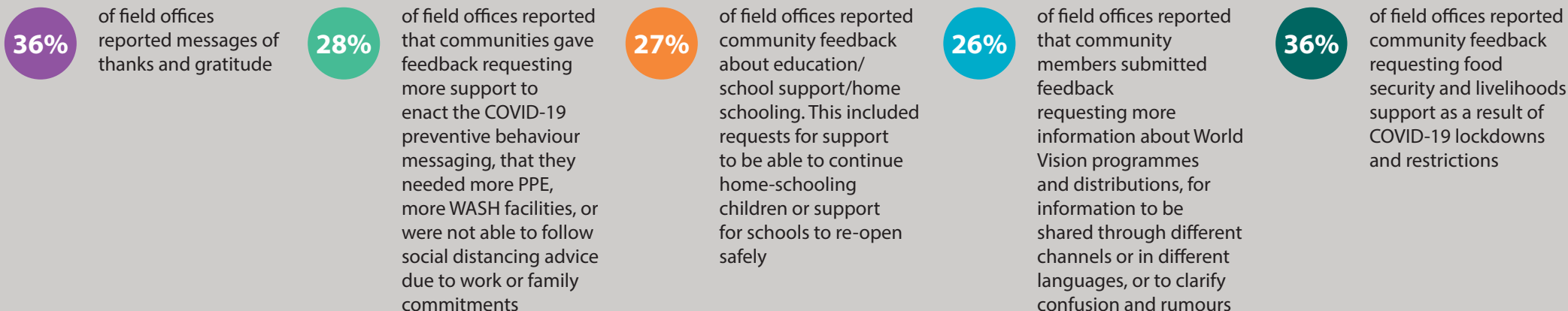
in oil and commodity prices are exacerbating food poverty or insecurity.

Response highlights

- World Vision led the Syria Senior Officials Meeting Advocacy Briefing, highlighting the specific health-care needs for COVID-19 inside **Northwest Syria**. This briefing was distributed to all United Nations agencies and donors and presented to Syria's international non-governmental organisation regional forum.
- After several months of an awareness-raising campaign in **Iraq**, faith leaders reached more than 13,000 people by the end of March.
- In **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, World Vision advocated with prospective partners (UNICEF and USAID) and three key faith-based organisations using our global COVID-19 Response indicators to influence their narratives around the pandemic.
- In **Afghanistan**, World Vision supported 13 workshops on COVID-19 prevention were supported with the Inter-religious Council and discussions were held with UNICEF to extend the COVID-19 prevention project.
- Faith leaders in **Lebanon** (8) and **Syria** (8) were trained on our Channels of Hope COVID-19 vaccine module.

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 (July to September 2021):



(qualitative data is based on narrative reporting from 38 field offices as of January 2022)

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

As a part of our efforts to listen and respond to communities' needs, the global COVID-19 Response released a new resource in February, [Home visitors and community health workers COVID-19 vaccination messaging guide](#), based on the perspectives shared by respondents during multiple Barrier Analysis surveys conducted in various countries and disparate contexts to understand common barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccine. We are providing this as an open-source document in English and Ukrainian to empower World Vision staff and partners, as well as other organisations to reproduce so everyone can communicate about COVID-19 vaccines clearly and accurately and respond to common questions with confidence.

In **Vietnam**, World Vision received feedback from local communities, schools and partners requesting needed items to respond to the latest COVID-19 cases. As a result of this, World Vision Vietnam adjusted the distribution plan and is providing preventive items. These items included medical masks, protective clothes, infrared thermometers, and hand washing materials. World Vision Vietnam were able to be responsive to urgent needs and distribute these earlier than original plan. This timely action was highly appreciated by local government and partners.

In **Angola**, World Vision received feedback that children living on the street had been excluded from COVID-19 support. World Vision, in partnership with the Catholic Church, mobilised and sensitised street kids on the importance of self-hygiene during COVID-19, and a considerable number of children received masks and handwashing soap. 80% of the street children appreciated World Vision's initiative, given that they have never had access to soap or facial mask throughout the pandemic. Based on this feedback and need, World Vision Angola will now conduct the same type of field activity in other areas as well.

In **Thailand**, World Vision received feedback that greater consideration of the safety levels of community members when participating in activities. World Vision Thailand learnt that many beneficiaries feel anxiety around group events. As a result of the World Vision Thailand will now plan distributions and trainings that follow protocols to ensure all beneficiaries feel comfortable and safe receiving support.

Resources and publications

Reports

[Calling the shots: Empowering communities during COVID-19](#)

[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](#)

[Shattered lives: Understanding the mental health and psychosocial needs of women and children in Northwest Syria](#)

[Child protection and COVID-19: World Vision's Response in fragile contexts](#)

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.



COVID-19 and compounding crises are creating an impossible situation for many mothers around the world, including Mariam. Mariam's daughter Naima is undernourished and receiving support from World Vision. We must continue to stand by children and their families as they face worsening hunger because of the pandemic.

"While Ukraine has seen great solidarity, we must see the same efforts and funding for other crises, such as the pandemic, which has robbed countless children of their potential. Otherwise, those in already fragile contexts will become even more vulnerable."

– Andrew Morley, President and CEO, World Vision International

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