



Africa Regional Situation Report

Situation Report July 16, 2020

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Cases: 363,707

COVID-19 Deaths: 6,225

The virus continues to spread with a linear daily increment as most of the countries in East, Southern and West Africa relax their confinement measures (schools and markets are reopening, public gatherings are resuming). World Vision is concerned by the increasing risk of a wider transmission and appeals for the intensification of prevention measures and support to health systems for mass testing and surveillance.

World Vision is also concerned by the reported increase in gender-based violence as the economic challenges set in and appeals to national governments and donors to protect ongoing humanitarian and development assistance for the most vulnerable as there is a growing risk that other health issues (malaria, HIV/AIDS, immunization of children) may be de-prioritised.

The COVID-19 induced economic challenges have come at a time when the region is at the crossroads of multiple disasters ranging from conflict, climate shocks, pests (locust invasion, Fall Army Worm), and social challenges, such as high unemployment and endemic poverty that put millions in need of humanitarian assistance. World Vision appeals for increased investments to support critical lifesaving interventions and recovery initiatives.

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 26 countries. Source:WHO, 13 June 2020)

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:

23,304,563

Men 6,566,252 Women 7,153,124

Children 9,585,187

Boys 4,619,030 Girls 4,966,157

(Based on figures as of 10 July 2020)

Key Messages



World Vision is concerned about the impact that the COVID-19 health crisis will have on the poorest and most vulnerable, and the risk it poses to already stretched basic social services and pre-existing high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This is especially the case amongst refugee and internally displaced populations.



We are active on the ground and scaling up our prevention and response work across Africa, including in fragile contexts. The coronavirus response comes on top of climate change effects such as recurrent drought, torrential floods and locust invasions – all destroying crops and livelihoods. Response work includes preventing loss of progress made towards the global Sustainable Development Goals.



World Vision urges the world to focus on the most vulnerable children, especially those living in communities with low access or weak health systems, and those already battling sickness such as tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and malaria. They must not be left behind and funding for COVID-19 resources must not be diverted from their treatment, care and support.



World Vision is concerned with the increased incidences of violence against children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and warns of the long-term risk of increased child marriage and child labour. We urge Governments to ensure continued functioning of child-friendly reporting mechanisms such as SOS hotlines to enable children's protection.



RESPONSE GOAL

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

Strategic Objectives



1. Scale up preventive measures to limit the spread of disease



3. Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through 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 preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19



11,076,538

People reached through promotion of preventive behaviours



1,137,264

Information, education, and communication materials printed and distributed



1,911,655

Community members provided with preventive materials



630,190

Handwashing supplies distributed



117,196

Comprehensive hygiene kits distributed



64,502

Cleaning kits distributed to vulnerable communities



61,213

Community-level public handwashing stations established or maintained



30,275

Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities constructed or rehabilitated



56,302

Faith leaders disseminating preventive measures

(Based on figures as of 10 July 2020)

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



67,639

Community health workers trained and supported



58,913

Medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)



1,902,135

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



1,630,215

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



4,599

Medical facilities assisted



102,834

Disinfectant kits distributed to health care facilities



14,282

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



350

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set-up



4,008

People provided with transportation support

(Based on figures as of 10 July 2020)

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



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 10 July 2020)

BURUNDI

- Worked with Faith Based Organisations, UN agencies and International Non-Governmental Organisations to advocate for access to diagnostic testing, transparency on data, treatment and effective implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures. The Government is now running a free mass screening campaign, and those who test positive will be treated free of charge. The Government has also lowered the cost of soap and water supply by 50 percent.
- **Trained more than 120 faith leaders on World Vision's Channels of Hope approach, equipping them in risk communication and community engagement.**

KENYA

- Issued a joint media statement on COVID-19 and submitted a memorandum to the National COVID-19 Education Emergency Response Committee on the re-opening of schools. This was done as part of the Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya, whose membership includes many reputable NGOs in Kenya.
- **Trained 710 faith leaders in Psychosocial First Aid. The faith leaders who were trained in Changamwe Area Programme in Mombasa county have mobilised resources and distributed food and masks to families in need. Faith leaders in Katito Area Programme in Kisumu county sensitized parents on the need to seek medical treatment for child morbidities even in the face of COVID-19.**

RWANDA

- Conducted radio talk shows to promote positive parenting and encourage parents to support their children's remote learning which is targeting more than two million beneficiaries.
- Engaged 20 community-based church partners to collaborate on installation of hand washing stations and dissemination of COVID-19 prevention measures that will enable churches to re-open.

SOMALIA

- Increased access to water among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through water trucking.
- Increased coverage of medical personnel receiving personal protective equipment, to cover facilities that are not directly supported by World Vision.
- Participated in a live radio interview on food security. The radio show is an initiative of Radio Ergo through which they are collaborating with clusters to support open dialogue among IDPs, government authorities and the humanitarian sector.
- Released the second episode of the child-focused mini-series, Hiddo & Hirsi, to create awareness on COVID-19. The video was produced through the Response Innovation Lab. Through this initiative, World Vision has co-financed the production of 10 radio drama episodes that have already been broadcast, and another five episodes are in the pipeline. Here is the link to the online shows: <https://radioergo.org/en/category/bed-dhawr/>
- **Continued to create awareness on prevention of COVID-19 through faith leaders who are organised into Community Hope Action Teams (CHATs), in World Vision operation areas. The faith leaders work closely with other leaders and officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.**

SOUTH SUDAN

- Reached more than 5,700 people with COVID-19 prevention messages through World Vision trained faith leaders.

SUDAN

- Mobilised community leaders to promote social distancing during general food distribution.
- Provided logistical support to the Government mobile team creating awareness on COVID-19.

TANZANIA

- Participated in the Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) virtual meeting on child protection, violence against children and sexual and gender-based violence.
- Trained mothers on how to take MUAC (Mid Upper Arm Circumference) measurements on their children leading to an improvement in the utilisation of nutrition services.

UGANDA

- **Trained more than 400 faith leaders in child and adult safeguarding skills.**
- **Conducted dialogues in partnership with faith leaders on gender-based violence and shared messages on positive parenting with household heads.**
- **Participated in a radio talks show on curbing violence against children. The participation was through World Vision trained faith leaders.**
- **Provided psychosocial support, counselling and guidance to households including messages on COVID-19 preventive measures. This was done through World Vision trained faith leaders.**
- Developed and presented issue briefs to different government district task force teams, to inform the COVID-19 response in World Vision areas of operation.
- Engaged the district task force to allow teachers to teach primary 7 children in small groups of 10 while observing COVID-19 preventive measures.

It is the harvest season in Southern Africa and different countries are conducting their seasonal vulnerability assessment to determine those that may require assistance. The number of those who will require assistance is likely to be higher than usual given the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods (especially in urban areas). World Vision is calling for timely mobilisation of resources as these will be required earlier than usual.

ANGOLA

- Co-sponsored the SOS child hotline, in partnership with the Government. The hotline is currently being promoted on TV and radio in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. World Vision's *It Takes a World Campaign (ITAW)* has been integrated into the Government's campaign on COVID-19, locally known as 'STOP COVID-19'.
- **Disseminated child protection and COVID-19 messages through faith leaders.**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

- Partnered with UNHCR to support World Vision sponsored children, refugees and reporters to present their concerns on child labour to the Government in Haut Katanga province. They urged the Government to prohibit children from working in quarries, where hundreds of minors are employed.
- Mobilised various Government representatives responsible for addressing the worst forms of child labour; to validate the context analysis including proposals for action on the legal and regulatory framework on the protection of children during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Worked with faith leaders to run a series of meetings in early July, focused on child protection issues during the COVID-19. Several government officials and partners attended the meetings including, the Provincial Minister for Gender, Family and Children, the Mayor of the City of Gbadolite and the President of the Civil Society of North Ubangi.**
- **Trained faith leaders in Bukavu on World Vision's Channels of Hope approach. The training equips faith leaders to become change agents in the fight against COVID-19. Two faith leaders are already sensitising communities in Kolowezi, while 19 others were trained in Kinshasa to educate communities in Kimbaseke and Kikimi.**

ESWATINI

- **Reached 22 church leaders with COVID-19 and child protection messages ahead of the re-opening of churches.**
- Continued with WASH projects that started before COVID-19. So far, two boreholes have been drilled, rehabilitated three boreholes, while installation of four reticulation systems is underway, and completed survey for five new boreholes.

LESOTHO

- Sensitised 92 principals from primary and secondary schools on COVID-19 protocols in preparation for the re-opening of schools.
- **Reached more than 200 community members through spiritual group counselling conducted by faith leaders to address stress and depression due to increasing cases of COVID-19 in the country.**

MALAWI

- Engaged health workers to sensitise communities on the appropriate use and care of cloth face masks.
- Organised a virtual press conference during the Day of the African Child, where children's voices were highlighted in line with the theme of the day: 'Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa'.
- **Continued to disseminate awareness messages through faith leaders.**
- Continued with the WASH project which started before COVID-19. So far, eleven new boreholes have been drilled, and 18 boreholes have been rehabilitated reaching more than 5,000 beneficiaries under the Charity Water project.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Reached four million people with COVID-19 and child protection call-to-action messages which were shared on television, community radio stations, mobile text messages and social media platforms between 1 June (International Children's Day) and 16 June (Day of the African Child).
- **Reached 200 faith leaders through training in child stress management and child protection. Each of the faith leaders has committed to train at least another 10 faith leaders.**
- Distributed 10,000 bottles of water treatment benefitting 6,600 households.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Presented at the Voices and Action on Gender Based Violence in South Africa Zoom dialogues. Fifty-five pastors participated in the dialogue. The dialogue had more than 430 views on YouTube and reached more than 660 people through Facebook.
- The Government approved the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence, which has seven pillars. World Vision participated in the workshop for Faith Based Organisations and is a member of the working group focusing on equipping faith leaders.

ZAMBIA

- Participated in a radio talk show on the effects of COVID-19 on children. The show which was moderated by children was streamed live on Facebook spurring public interest and engagement. The debate reached more than 3,800 people and has been shared 13 times.
- Engaged the Secretary for the Parliamentary Committee on Child Protection and Child Rights, to address child protection concerns during COVID-19 and beyond. Through this engagement, World Vision secured a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee which will be held on 24 September, 2020 to advocate against child abuse and child marriage.

- Reached more than 3,500 people through Facebook with a story about a mechanised water system, which World Vision installed to support vulnerable communities in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The same story was shared on Twitter, and it had 249 impressions and 14 engagements.
- Continued with a WASH project which started before COVID-19. So far 24 boreholes have been drilled, 43 boreholes have been rehabilitated, and 56 ventilated pit latrines have been constructed).

ZIMBABWE

- Developed child protection resource material to guide Area Programmes in their engagement with communities and other stakeholders on child protection matters. The Child Protection in Emergencies fact sheet borrows important facets from the Global COVID-19 advocacy messaging, the Child Protection in Emergencies guidelines as well as the domestic guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Child Care.
- **Continued to send COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages to faith leaders for onward sharing within their communities.**
- **Continued to work with faith leaders to provide mental health and psychosocial support to affected community members.**



West Africa Region

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- Submitted a proposal to the UN Humanitarian Fund for special COVID-19 allocation.
- Reached 48,000 beneficiaries through food and cash distribution in Bangui, Bouar and Batangafo. The beneficiaries also received COVID-19 awareness messages.
- **Trained religious leaders in Bangassou on the Channels of Hope approach in the context of COVID-19.**
- Continued to disseminate COVID-19 preventive messages through door-to-door campaigns and via children's groups.

CHAD

- Participated in advocacy and communications meetings organised by UNOCHA.
- Trained 67 faith leaders to effectively communicate risk and behavior change to curb the transmission of COVID-19, and provide psychosocial counselling using World Vision's Channels of Hope approach.

GHANA

- Worked with various media houses to advocate for the right of all children to safe, quality, inclusive and equitable education even amidst the pandemic. World Vision advocated for the Government to strengthen its systems and put in place alternative and accessible measures for children to learn, grow and develop even as schools remain closed.
- **Trained 80 faith leaders on COVID-19 symptoms, safety protocols and preventive measures. The faith leaders are currently disseminating what they learnt among their congregants to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.**

MALI

- **Signed a contract with Christian and Muslim leaders to begin disseminating COVID-19 prevention messages in the community.**
- Engaged the Government through decentralised health and social structures on the COVID-19 response plan in all regions in Mali.

MAURITANIA

- Supported Citizen Voice & Action groups who successfully advocated local government administrative authorities to provide food support to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable families.
- Followed-up with community focal points on safeguarding issues.
- Conducted COVID-19 training for health care staff and Community Health Workers, including more than 40,000 women in the Assaba region.
- Conducted identification of cash transfer beneficiaries.

NIGER

- **Continued to conduct radio sensitisation on COVID-19 prevention through faith leaders in all World Vision operation areas.**

SENEGAL

- Reached more than 340,000 people with COVID-19 messages through radio spots, house visits and a community campaign caravan.
- Trained more than 230 community actors on basic information on COVID-19 as well as prevention measures.
- **Trained 53 religious leaders on World Vision's Channels of Hope approach in the context of COVID-19.**
- Conducted training for 208 members of the Integrated Monitoring Alert Committee. The training focused on modes of transmission, prevention measures and activities that will be carried out to support the district's COVID-19 response.

- Reached more than 2,000 children and 184 teachers through distribution of personal protective equipment and installation of hand washing stations.
- Distributed food and cash vouchers to 41 daaras (Koranic schools).
- Every evening at 8 pm, World Vision broadcasts a child protection advocacy message on the most watched TV channel in Senegal.

SIERRA LEONE

- Advocated the Minister for Economic Planning to provide clean water for all children. This was done in collaboration with children from the child protection programme.
- **Connected 40 faith leaders on the WhatsApp platform, where they are collaborating and sharing information on COVID-19 for dissemination among their congregants and communities.**



Members of Chomnyogh Women's Group are making affordable soap to help their community curb COVID-19 in Baringo County, Kenya. ©World Vision

We would like to thank our generous donors, partners, and supporters including:



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

