

# Middle East and Eastern Europe Regional Situation Report

Situation Report | 18 June 2020

#### **Situation Overview**

#### COVID-19 Cases: 87,555

#### COVID-19 Deaths: 2,906

The situation has been changing across Middle East and Eastern European countries over the past month. While some countries have eased their restrictions, such as Albania, Jordan, and Georgia, the epidemiological situation has deteriorated in other areas. Iraq has gone back into lockdown after a period of relatively lighter regulations. The situation continues to be critical in Afghanistan and Syria with limited testing and healthcare capacity of local systems. Armenia is witnessing an alarming rise in cases, stretching the healthcare system beyond its capacity. Hundreds of people are waiting for space in hospitals and the vulnerable population, especially children, are at even greater risk of lack of access to healthcare services, as well as to basic needs.

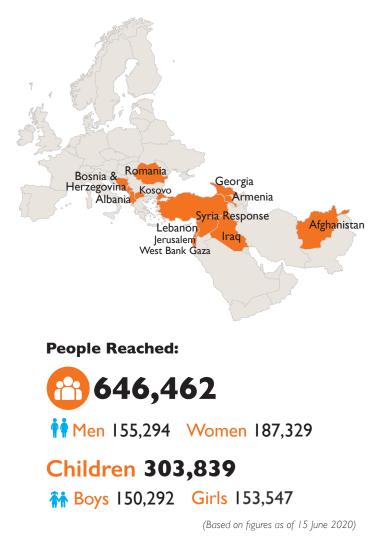
World Vision in Armenia continues to provide direct support to affected most vulnerable families, and supports community level health care providers in responding to increasing cases.

World Vision in Iraq, as a result of joint advocacy efforts of the NGO community, continues to deliver essential services to the most vulnerable groups, including internally-displaced people and refugees.

> (COVID-19 case and death figures for 12 countries. Source: WHO, 14 June 2020)



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in **13 countries** and territories in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.



### Key Messages

World Vision calls on Governments, the UN and the international community to:

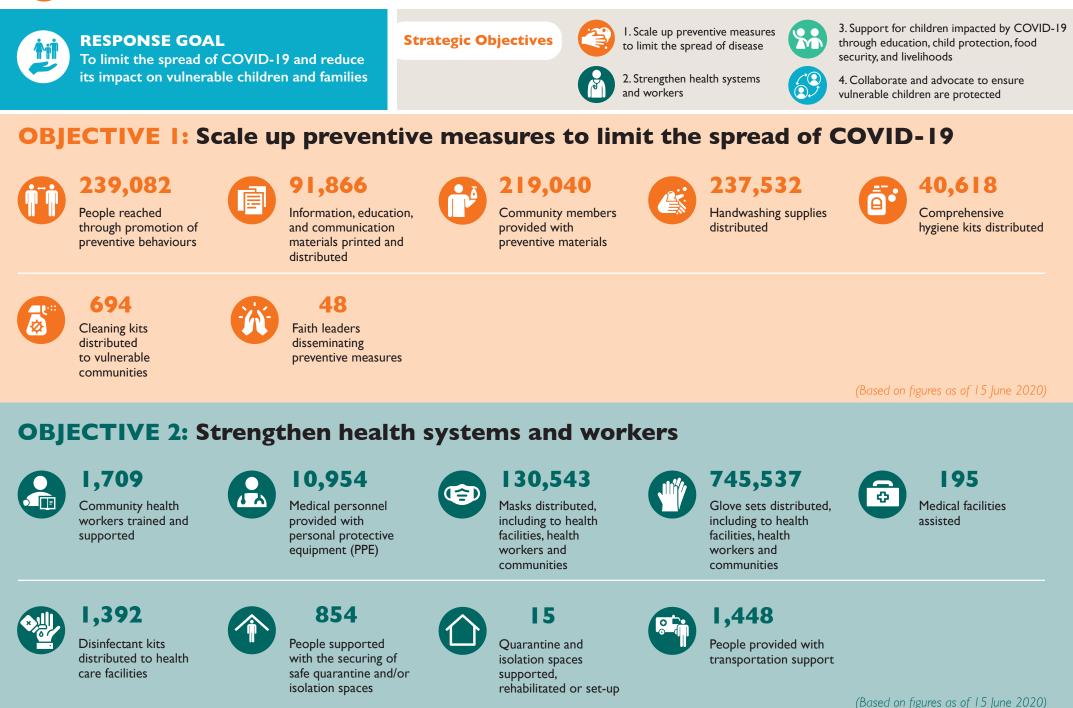
- Continue to scale up global COVID-19 prevention and response measures for children and their families by strengthening health systems, engaging and communicating effectively with children and their communities to provide critical child protection interventions and mental health and psychosocial support.
- Adopt policies and fund COVID-19 response plans that holistically address the secondary impacts of the pandemic on children and families, particularly with respect to child protection, gender-based violence, education, water and sanitation, food security, and livelihoods.
- Ensure access to humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable children and their families. Find alternatives to humanitarian programme suspensions where COVID-19 prevention policies are required.

#### Achievements

- World Vision in Afghanistan, in coordination with WHO and Ministry of Haji and Religious Affairs, conducted training for 60 religious leaders and families on COVID-19 prevention. These leaders shared their knowledge and passed educational messages to 1,300 people (950 female/350 males). Information, education, and communication materials (IEC) materials were located at the gates of places for worship.
- World Vision Syria Response's "WASH UP!" programme reached I,600 children through disseminating regular SMS/WhatsApp texts to parents delivering awareness and prevention messages.
- World Vision in Lebanon signed an agreement with WFP for food distribution to 4,197 households for 6 months.

# COVID-19 Emergency Response Highlights





# **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**





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