

EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 2019 – September 2020 | Global Emergency Response Fund

SUMMARY

In 2020, very few countries around the world were untouched by COVID-19. But for many, suffering caused by the pandemic was compounded by new and existing challenges, such as political conflict, violence, poverty, famine, natural disasters, and humanitarian emergencies.

Thanks to your faithful prayers and gifts to the Global Emergency Response Fund, World Vision continues to help families living with or recovering from natural disasters and other emergencies. COVID-19 complicated our response efforts, but in most cases, we adapted by conducting activities virtually or adding COVID-19 awareness and prevention initiatives.

The fruits of your partnership

In this report, we highlight seven of the 70 emergencies we responded to during fiscal year 2020.

Your gifts enabled us to:

- Meet immediate needs after a volcano eruption in the Philippines
- Respond to an explosion in Beirut
- Address the long-term needs of displaced people and refugees in Bangladesh, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Africa's Sahel region
- Care for families in East Africa suffering from locusts, floods, and intercommunal fighting

Even without COVID-19 in the forefront, many of these crises do not receive much coverage in the news. People facing these hardships have suffered long and in silence. Thanks to your support, World Vision walks alongside them, meeting immediate needs—food, access to clean water and improved sanitation, child protection, healthcare—and helping people for the long haul by rebuilding homes, livelihoods, and communities.



“I cannot walk, so World Vision trained me with a skill that I can do at home,” said Mazeda, a Rohingya refugee, showing off her beautiful embroidery. This effort was part of World Vision’s initiatives to empower women and help prevent gender-based violence in the refugee camps.

GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

27.9 **MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING 18.4 MILLION CHILDREN**, benefited from our response to 70 disasters and humanitarian emergencies in FY20.



180,669

people in Mali who have been displaced by armed conflict benefited from World Vision’s water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.



221

households in Iraq received cash assistance to cover basic household needs through the Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund.

MULTIPLYING YOUR IMPACT

World Vision is focused on leveraging gifts from generous donors like you for greater impact in the field. Leverage refers to a multiplier effect that occurs when a private donation allows us to apply for and secure additional grant funding, maximizing the yield for each dollar donated.* It creates greater donation impact and enables World Vision to do something we could not have done otherwise.

In FY20, World Vision's U.S. office leveraged \$26.7 million in private gifts from U.S. donors to mobilize more than \$225 million in grants from U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, and World Food Program (WFP). These grants enabled us to assist more than 5.6 million people.

**The average leverage/multiplier effect across all of our grants is 1 to 9. However, this ratio differs from one grant to another.*

FY20 GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Our emergency services include (but are not limited to):

- Nutrition
- Shelter
- Healthcare
- Family reunification
- Education
- Child protection
- Food security
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Cash-equivalent cards (used where goods are locally available and markets are functioning and accessible)

As we work with people to meet long-term needs and rebuild communities, some of the areas we address are:

- Disaster risk reduction
- Social cohesion/peacebuilding
- Vocational training
- Livelihoods and income generation



Setting up Child-Friendly Spaces to give children a sense of security and safe place to play, such as the one shown here in the Philippines after the Taal volcano eruption, is a vital part of World Vision's emergency response.

RAPID ONSETS

SUMMARY

In addition to responding to ongoing violence and political conflicts, World Vision also responds to rapid-onset emergencies—such as floods, earthquakes, and fires—that occur without warning.

Taal volcano eruption in the Philippines

In January, the eruption of the Taal Volcano in Batangas, Philippines, spewed ashes across the region, triggering alerts for an imminent and hazardous explosion. Residents fled their homes, relocating to evacuation centers.

World Vision's response included:

- Distributing food, water, education kits, and more than 12,000 dust masks
- Setting up Child-Friendly Spaces to give children safe places to play and process their experiences
- Helping people rebuild their livelihoods and the community infrastructure through cash-for-work activities for 997 families, such as cleaning up roads, coastal areas, and community facilities
- Distributing emergency supplies, such as laundry detergent, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, undergarments, sanitary napkins, blankets, mats, and mosquito nets, to more than 3,000 households

Explosion in Beirut

On August 4, a massive explosion shook Beirut, killing nearly 200 people and wounding 6,000. The blast damaged buildings within a 6-mile radius. With the explosion, the country faced a new set of issues that were layered upon existing challenges of a collapsing economy and health systems strained by COVID-19. Vulnerable populations—including women, children and the elderly—were among the most affected.

In response, World Vision:

- Helped nearly 19,000 people by delivering 2,263 food parcels, 1,450 hygiene kits, 714 disinfection kits, 3,653 face masks, blankets, tarps, and mattresses.
- Raised community awareness about precautions surrounding COVID-19
- Worked with local partners to provide psychosocial services to children and repair shelters

As the affected communities are rebuilding their lives, World Vision is expanding shelter repair activities and addressing the long-term impact on education and child protection.



UNICEF estimated that as many as 600,000 children are experiencing some form of psychological distress after the explosion in Beirut, which destroyed thousands of homes and left many people in need of shelter. In response, World Vision is offering psychosocial support to children through games and other activities.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

SUMMARY

For 32 years, World Vision and World Food Program have been partnering to meet the most dire needs around the world. World Vision is WFP's largest partner and, likewise, WFP is our largest partner in cash-based programming. During FY20, World Vision served 12.2 million people in 26 countries. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we remained committed to getting food to people who need it most. As the pandemic changed many aspects of everyday life, we ensured that our work adhered to current restrictions. This meant switching to cash-based distributions for minimal contact and passing out food where local markets could no longer accept cash. We also implemented double distributions every other month to reduce the time people spent collecting aid. The following sections highlight our work in specific countries.

South Sudan

Our work in South Sudan remains the largest project in our portfolio with WFP, serving 830,000 people in 16 programs. The projects include supplementary feeding for children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women suffering from malnutrition,

and general food distributions to internally displaced people and others impacted by poor harvests and low rainfall.

Iraq

Historically, it has been difficult for us to operate in Iraq, but during the summer, we landed two WFP projects that will increase our presence there. We implemented a mobile money transfer project, making cash distributions more efficient and safe. The second project—which will begin once COVID-19 restrictions ease—will train youth in Information and Communication Technology and English language proficiency, as well as in freelance microwork (small tasks that make up a large project, done as part of a virtual assembly line).

South America

Our work in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Honduras is helping refugees fleeing from political conflict and human rights violations in Venezuela. Specific achievements included distributions of cash, school supplies, food vouchers, and hygiene kits; providing safe and friendly spaces for children; and working to prevent gender-based violence.



In 2020, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its incredible contributions around the world. Edgar Sandoval Sr., World Vision U.S. President and CEO said, “Thanks to our partnership with the WFP, every day we see children’s lives saved and hope restored to families. Under these grim circumstances, partnerships like this one and the support of donors and governments will be even more critical to save lives. We must do all we can to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.”

SAHEL CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

SUMMARY

The central Sahel region, encompassing Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, is facing one of the fastest growing—yet easily forgotten—displacement emergencies in the world. Armed conflict, civilian attacks, economic security, flooding, and drought are threatening people's lives and livelihoods. More than 2.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes, and at least 13.4 million people need humanitarian assistance.

Caring for the most vulnerable

The situation has left children extremely vulnerable to malnutrition, exploitation, trafficking, abuse, and violence. The crisis, along with COVID-19, has interrupted children's education.

World Vision directly cared for children's needs and safety by:

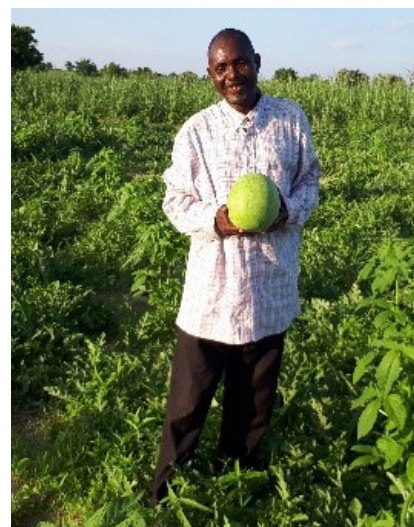
- Raising awareness of children's rights, the importance of their participation in family decisions, and child abuse, benefiting 2,800 children and their families in Niger
- Repairing nine schools in Mali and training 249 teachers working in fragile environments
- Training 137 community members in Mali to provide psychosocial care for children and refer children to such services

- Training more than 300 people to support Kids Clubs and Child-Friendly Spaces, where children can learn about their rights and feel a sense of community

Meeting basic needs

People living in limbo struggle to access even the most basic resources. To ensure that people have what they need to be healthy and support their families, World Vision:

- Provided safe drinking water, promoted proper hygiene practices, built latrines and showers, and distributed hygiene kits in Niger
- Distributed cash and food assistance to 275,000 people in Niger, improving children's diets and health
- Provided seeds, enabling parents in Niger to start small-scale farms
- Distributed monthly rations to 77,228 vulnerable people and host communities in Mali, and gave food vouchers to 1,662 families to feed their young children
- Supplied mats, bed nets, soap, and handwashing kits to people in Mali who had been displaced, providing them with daily necessities



Issaka Kokari, a pastor and farmer in Niger, learned from World Vision about adopting attitudes and behaviors that foster independence and maximize resources. As a result, Kokari took a risk to grow watermelon instead of millet, a common local crop. With his first harvest, he earned \$1,932—more money than he'd ever had—and was able to repay debts and support his family.

IRAQ CRISIS RESPONSE

SUMMARY

As of September 2020, more than 6 million people across Iraq were living in limbo, due to decades of conflict and widespread violence. Among the millions who had been displaced, many returned home to find their houses destroyed, leaving them once again without a place to live. Under the strain of COVID-19 and increased needs, healthcare systems and basic services are crumbling. Children are particularly vulnerable and are suffering from abuse, neglect, malnutrition, and a disrupted education.

Meeting people where they are

During FY20, World Vision reached 472,829 people by addressing the needs of internally displaced communities, refugees, returnees, and host communities.

The following are only a few of our accomplishments:

- In early FY20, 1,167 children received psychosocial support, more than 7,000 children were screened for malnutrition, and 2,190 pregnant and nursing women learned about proper nutrition for infants and young children.
- We collected and removed garbage from a displacement camp and removed sludge from septic tanks and underground waste storage containers.
- We distributed school supplies to 15,000 children, equipping them to continue their education.
- Our work in two schools resulted in nearly 4,000 students gaining access to clean water.

Partnering for the long haul

Rebuilding livelihoods and stimulating the economy are important ways for people to support their families. Our work in this area included the following:

- Forty people in one community received self-employment toolkits to start their own businesses.
- Through cash-for-work projects, 96 people earned money by preparing land for planting, and 300 people cleaned irrigation canals.
- During the last few months of FY20, we distributed nearly \$480,000 to 25,715 people living in refugee camps.
- We rolled out a women's economic empowerment project to reduce the risk of gender-based violence. The project promoted women's empowerment among male community and household leaders, and established six women's savings groups.



World Vision distributed 330 cleaning kits to families in the Gawilan refugee camp, and also delivered messages about COVID-19 awareness and prevention to 1,167 people.

EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO SERVE REFUGEES

SUMMARY

In Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, socio-political and economic shocks have placed emotional and financial burdens on millions of people. With the additional strain of COVID-19, people are selling off assets, taking on debt, marrying off their children, and cutting back spending on basic household needs.

Engaging faith leaders and churches

World Vision's Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund is helping congregations and church leaders in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria to provide effective, relevant, compassionate, and culturally sensitive care for refugees and displaced families. The fund enables our local church partners to respond to urgent and long-term needs and changing priorities of their specific communities. During FY20, this project reached 11,995 people.

Rebuilding lives after loss

Loss of livelihoods and income are among the most significant challenges faced by many in these project countries. In response, World Vision is working with two partners in Jordan to provide vocational training, English lessons, and life-skills classes.

In Iraq, we are working with local churches and faith leaders to distribute agricultural tools (e.g., water tanks, drip irrigation systems), business training, and psychosocial support. Our projects shifted in-person vocational training to remote business training and mentoring.

Caring for mind, body, and soul

In Lebanon, our partners were significantly impacted not only by COVID-19 but also the blast in Beirut. During the few months that our partners' centers were closed due to COVID-19, virtual learning and psychological support were made available. The partners also offered life-skills sessions for families to process their emotions and thoughts surrounding the explosion, pandemic, and instability throughout the country.

In Syria, we are supporting a dialysis center and primary healthcare center. Nearly 2,800 people received medical consultation services and referrals for procedures such as surgeries and X-rays. We responded to the COVID-19 crisis by equipping health facilities to set up a triage area and patient referral system, train workers, and have sufficient medical supplies.



In February 2020, 15-year-old Dalia lost her father due to cancer and COVID-19. Without a source of financial support, Dalia's family receives food from World Vision. Dalia also attends a youth center in Lebanon, run by World Vision and Youth For Christ, that helps to meet the psychosocial well-being and basic educational needs of vulnerable refugees.

BANGLADESH ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE

SUMMARY

Since 2017, more than 740,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh, escaping persecution, violence, and human rights abuses. They now live in overcrowded refugee camps.

During FY20, \$750,000 of private donor funds leveraged \$28 million in grants, enabling World Vision to reach 612,674 refugees. Although our work was impacted by COVID-19, we responded by raising awareness about the virus through door-to-door campaigns and distributing more than 130,000 masks.

Empowering women for the future

Several of our initiatives focused on empowering women with skills to support themselves and their families. They included the following:

- Despite the brief closure of 55 Community Cooking and Learning Centers, we were able to offer nearly 4,000 workshops. As a result, 13,750 women learned about nutrition, pastry-making, sewing, gender-based violence prevention, business planning, and other skills. Some participants, motivated to support their families, opened pastry shops in the refugee camps.
- After dealing with fluctuating prices of produce in markets due to COVID-19, many women wanted to start their own gardens

and increase their access to nutritious fresh food. As a result, World Vision offered training on food preservation techniques and harvesting seeds.

- Due to COVID-19, the project's multipurpose training facilities became mask-making centers; 72 women sewed nearly 14,000 face masks for the community. Among those women, a cohort was selected to receive advanced sewing training and serve as trainers in partnering sewing facilities.

Helping families support themselves

Cash assistance was particularly crucial, as many refugees struggled to find work. In addition, the project's cash-for-work projects were on hold for several months due to lockdowns. In response, World Vision distributed cash assistance, including a third and final payment of \$54 each to 5,191 households toward the end of FY20.

When cash-for-work projects restarted in late summer, more than 3,200 households participated in the activities, earning money to support their families. We implemented mobile money transfers to ensure that beneficiaries could always receive funds, even if future lockdowns prevent in-person distributions.



Through Community Cooking and Learning Centers, women learned about homestead gardening as an avenue for providing fresh food to their families. They also learned food preservation techniques, such as drying, pickling, and harvesting seeds to expand their gardens.

EAST AFRICA CHILDREN'S CRISIS

SUMMARY

In East Africa, millions of families are battling hunger, malnutrition, destroyed livelihoods, and poverty, brought on by COVID-19, floods, mass displacement, and the most aggressive plague of locusts in seven decades.

Saving livelihoods and food sources

To help the region deal with locusts:

- World Vision equipped community leaders to train others on diversifying crops, managing livestock and crops to reduce loss, and implementing a low-cost land regeneration method to restore farmlands.
- More than 1,000 farmers in Kenya impacted by locusts received drought-tolerant seeds to help rebuild their livelihoods.
- Households received cash assistance to help them meet their basic needs.

Recovering from floods

In response to floods that have left thousands of people in makeshift shelters, World Vision distributed food, non-food items (such as kitchen utensils, blankets, and hygiene supplies), seeds and farming equipment, and cash vouchers.

In displacement camps, we focused on providing proper sanitation facilities and ensuring people had access to clean drinking water, whether

through new water systems or water purification methods. For example, 3,872 people in displacement camps in Somalia received wheelbarrows, rakes, brooms, and protective gloves to improve sanitation conditions, and 3,000 people learned about proper hygiene.

Protecting families in South Sudan

Since 2016, intercommunal fighting in South Sudan has forced many people out of their homes. The situation has put children at risk of abduction, violence, and psychosocial distress. We also are witnessing a significant need for women and girls to access gender-based violence-prevention services.

Our response included:

- Training social workers on child protection and gender-based violence
- Informing 52,514 people about child protection issues through health centers and door-to-door visits
- Setting up Child-Friendly Spaces, giving 1,429 children outlets to play, learn, and express their feelings
- Empowering 149 women with literacy and life skills, and distributing feminine hygiene kits to 218 women



Since floods forced Elseba (seated) and her family from their home, they have been staying at a makeshift camp. They were cold and hungry until they received food, blankets, sleeping mats, cooking utensils, and money from World Vision. Elseba no longer struggles to feed her family, and she is saving money to rebuild her home.

THANK YOU

In Bangladesh, World Vision met Nur and her family of six, who are among the 740,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled violence and persecution in Myanmar. They currently live in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. They're not legally permitted to work and have little space to grow food, so World Food Program's monthly distributions of rice, lentils, and oil—distributed by World Vision—are what keep Nur's family fed and healthy.

Thanks to your faithful support of the Global Emergency Response Fund, World Vision has been able to care for families like Nur's through our responses to ongoing humanitarian crises, as well as rapid-onset disasters. Through temporary shelters, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, child protection activities, healthcare, and economic opportunities, we are sending a message of hope to the people we serve—and a message that tells them that we will walk alongside them through their heartache and their joy, until their lives are rebuilt.

Thank you for your prayers and your generosity, without which we could not do this life-changing work.



"I am so impressed with how God is using World Vision to help children and families around the world when disaster strikes. We have seen the work of the Emergency Response team in the field. It is powerful. Hurting children are helped. Doors are opened to difficult places. Hope is restored." — Pat Williams (center, back), World Vision Donor and National Leadership Council Member



34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
P.O. Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

For more information visit:
<https://www.worldvisionphilanthropy.org/emergency-response>



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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