

# COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan



April 3, 2020

# Foreword

COVID-19 is a crisis like no other. The impact on the girls and boys we serve is potentially devastating, as those who protect and provide for children succumb to the disease and vital services are put on hold. It's affecting the lives of our supporters and of our own staff and loved ones. Yet, as often before in our history, it is at times of such crisis where we see World Vision at its best.

World Vision has a presence in 100 countries. Most staff are from the very communities we serve and therefore our response is already well under way - from Wuhan, China, the epicentre of the disease, where World Vision staff provided critical medical equipment to hospitals; to the Democratic Republic of Congo, where we are training Christian and Muslim faith leaders to keep communities safe; to Mongolia, where we partnered with the government to reach 890,000 parents with messages on how to care for children during this stressful time, using social media. We are rapidly adapting to the unprecedented nature of this crisis, turning to innovation and technology to save lives when traditional ways of working are turned on their head.

Responding to large-scale crises and challenges like this one is in World Vision's DNA. Within an hour of the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, World Vision declared a Global Health Emergency Response. As a first phase, we have mounted a US\$80 million effort to focus our initial response in 17 countries, reaching the most vulnerable children who could be the worst affected. Indeed, all the countries in which we operate have pivoted their work to be primarily focused on COVID-19.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our peers and partners, with whom we have longstanding and trusted relationships around the world. We are all united in our common goal to tackle this threat, and I urge governments – while facing huge domestic challenges themselves – to join in this global effort to protect children, continuing to grant access to humanitarian workers, health workers and life-saving supplies. Faith leaders also have a key role to play. We witnessed the transformational impact we can achieve through our Channels of Hope faith leader education programme which was instrumental in ending the Ebola crisis.

I deeply believe that together we can get through this. Our common humanity is stronger than this virus and I pay tribute to our staff and all the first responders saving lives on the front lines of this unprecedented crisis. This is the time to let love shine a light into the darkness of fear. We rise to this challenge together with faith, hope and complete determination, as we have so many times before in our organisation's long history.



**Andrew J. Morley**  
World Vision International  
President and CEO

## A Whole of **World Vision** Response

A global pandemic requires a global response. World Vision is united across every operational area, program, and office - all oriented toward a whole-of-organisation response to COVID-19. Over a 70-year history of serving the most vulnerable and building community trust, these attributes were created for solving global challenges in the humanitarian, development, and advocacy realms. World Vision will be leveraging them to combat this pandemic.

# World Vision's Approach



## Using our global reach

With a presence in **100 countries** and more than **37,000 staff**, World Vision is maintaining humanitarian and development operations in some of the most impoverished and vulnerable communities in the face of COVID-19. Within this global effort, World Vision's COVID-19 Emergency Response will lead and coordinate a principled humanitarian response in **17 initial priority countries, aiming to reach 22.5 million people - half of them children**, over the next six months. With the current evolution of COVID-19, the emergency response is expected to grow on an ongoing basis.

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## Leveraging our local networks and community trust

World Vision's strong relationships with local communities of faith and informal health actors will be critical to the delivery of health and child protection interventions, provision of psychosocial support and advocacy. World Vision's unique Channels of Hope methodology has supported more than **400,000 leaders from all faiths in more than 50 countries** to successfully respond to disease outbreaks like Zika and Ebola. We are already piloting and adapting this approach for COVID-19. World Vision supports more than **220,000 community health workers (CHWs)** around the world who are engaging in a wide range of community health activities. CHWs are trained to deliver basic health services and are already on the frontlines of the effort to respond to COVID-19 in their communities.

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## Reaching the most vulnerable in the most fragile places

Existing humanitarian needs will grow exponentially across many countries. Fragile and conflict affected contexts are expected to be the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to the reduction in regular humanitarian assistance due to restrictions on movement of people and goods and services. World Vision will focus its emergency response on situations of **pre-existing vulnerability and fragility where children are most at risk - conflict affected contexts, urban slums, refugee and IDP settings**.



## Adapting to a new way of working

A response of this scale and scope requires new ways of working. **Agility, flexibility, use of digital technologies, accelerated data collection, real time analysis, and remote management of our programmes, will be a priority.** To enhance adaptive programming, agility and innovation World Vision will draw on its unique Fragile Context Programme Approach (FCPA), and on initiatives such as the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCDN) for programme reach and impact, as well as on critical livelihoods support tools such as World Vision's global Savings for Transformation (S4T) platforms.

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## Being an influential voice for vulnerable children

Through its advocacy, public engagement, and partnerships, World Vision has been able to inform global and national policy, mobilise support for humanitarian action by governments and the general public, as well as **form strong partnerships to achieve positive change. Strengthening the voices of children and civil society,** and active advocacy and engagement with decision makers will be at the heart of World Vision's COVID-19 response. Jointly tackling the challenges and collaborating with national governments, donors, UN agencies and the private sector will be critical to global success. We are in this together.

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## Humanitarian protection, gender and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse

World Vision is placing protection at the centre of its emergency response plan and mainstreaming it across all response sectors, ensuring a 'Do No Harm' approach and application of the Core Humanitarian Standard. Recognising the gendered impacts of COVID-19, country responses will be informed by multi-sector gender analysis and mainstreaming, with programmes adapted to ensure specific needs, vulnerabilities, risks and opportunities for women, girls, boys and men. **All World Vision offices will apply its global child and adult safeguarding policies and zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)** ensuring prevention, monitoring and incident reporting.

# Strategic Objectives at a Glance

## GOAL

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

World Vision will coordinate and work with relevant formal and informal health services and inter-agency groups on risk communication and community engagement to reduce transmission and limit the spread of COVID-19. This will be accomplished by harnessing existing Channels of Hope for faith leaders and community health worker support platforms. Communication will promote basic infection, prevention, and control (IPC) measures, which include handwashing with soap and respiratory hygiene, social distancing, quarantine and isolation of COVID-19 patients, and protection of those who are at high risk such as the elderly and the chronically ill.



### 2. Strengthen health systems and workers

To minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national health systems, World Vision will provide targeted systems strengthening and support to formal and informal health workers, including community health workers. World Vision will achieve this by providing personal protective equipment like masks and gloves and treatment supplies such as thermometers and pulse oximeters and by supporting the development of strategies to rapidly expand healthcare teams and ensure children continue to receive routine health and nutrition and vaccination services. Community Health Workers will play a vital role in reducing disease transmission by promoting preventive behaviours and through contact tracing, detecting, and referring individuals with symptoms of COVID-19.



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

*Education:* World Vision will support children, families, teachers and relevant institutions to mitigate the impact of social distancing measures. This will include equipping families to support children physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually, as well as ensuring that learning and holistic development never stops. Remote learning and training for education and child protection personnel will be implemented in ways that reduce the digital divide.

*Child protection:* World Vision will adapt existing reporting and referral mechanisms for child protection and equip frontline workers to respond to children affected by violence. Our aim is to ensure alternative care for children deprived of parental care, preventing institutionalisation and unintentional separation, providing psychosocial support, information about COVID-19 and where and how to access support and services.

*Food security and livelihoods:* World Vision will work to enhance food security for the most vulnerable children and their families using market-based approaches to strengthen the local economy. This will include provision of cash and vouchers, food distributions and locally purchased care packs for people in isolation, as well as enhanced recovery pathways to financial inclusion and social protection mechanisms, such as access to finance to revive affected micro, medium and small enterprises, and Savings for Transformation (S4T) platforms.



### 4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

World Vision will undertake a comprehensive external engagement approach that will encompass strategic and operational collaboration, partnering, advocacy and communications. This will be done at national, regional and global levels in mutually reinforcing ways through clear information management, support and coordination. An advocacy priority will be ensuring global and national policy decisions protect children and their rights to access prevention and response services.

# Programme Reach

For the initial six months of the COVID-19 Emergency Response, WorldVision aims to reach:

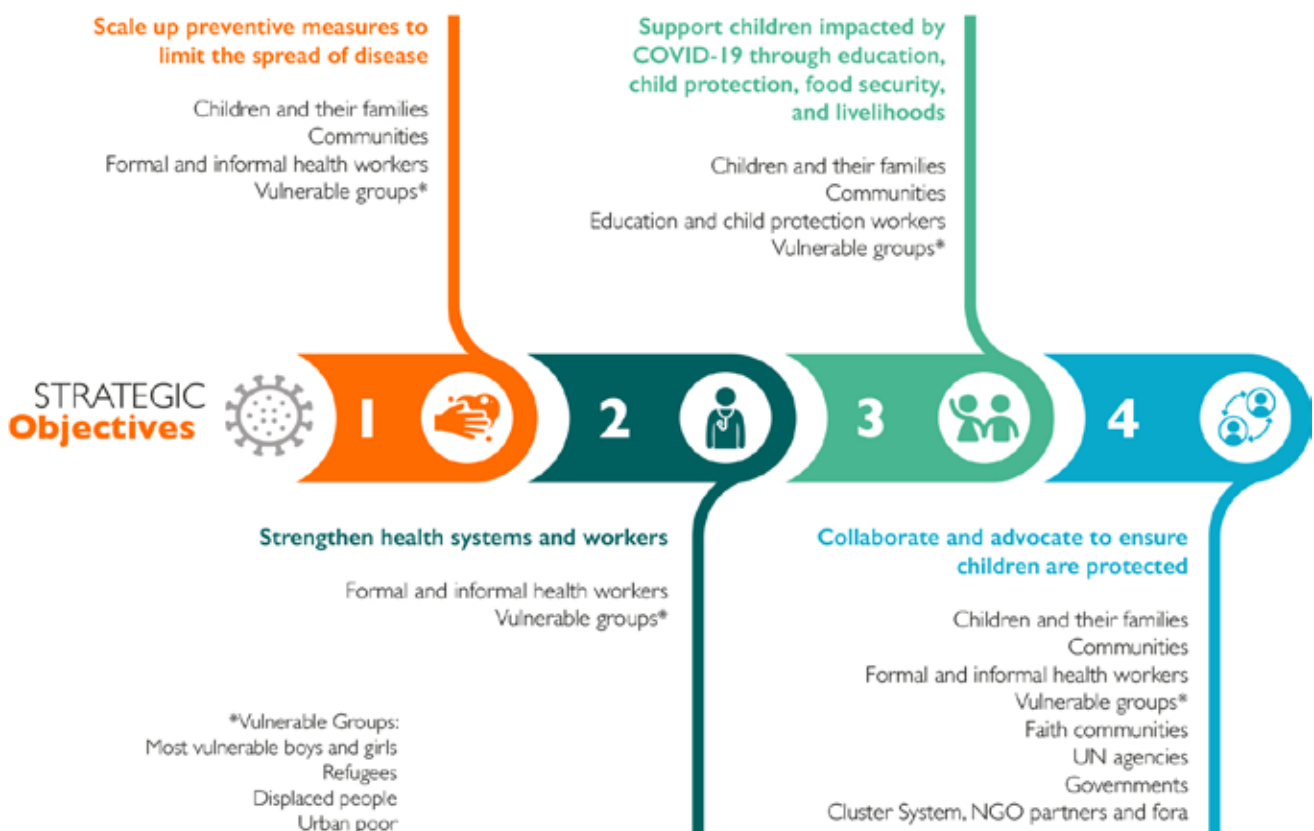


**22.5 million**  
people, of whom

**11 million**  
are children

in an initial **17** priority countries

## Target Populations



Nearly all of the priority countries where World Vision is responding to COVID-19 have significant pockets of poverty in urban slums, densely populated informal settlements, and refugee/internally displaced people camps. These living conditions are where children, families, and communities are most at risk due to limited access to safe water or soap, health and education services, and the formal economy.



# Funding Requirements



World Vision is appealing for an initial  
**US \$80 million**

to implement its emergency response and achieve our strategic objectives over the next six months.

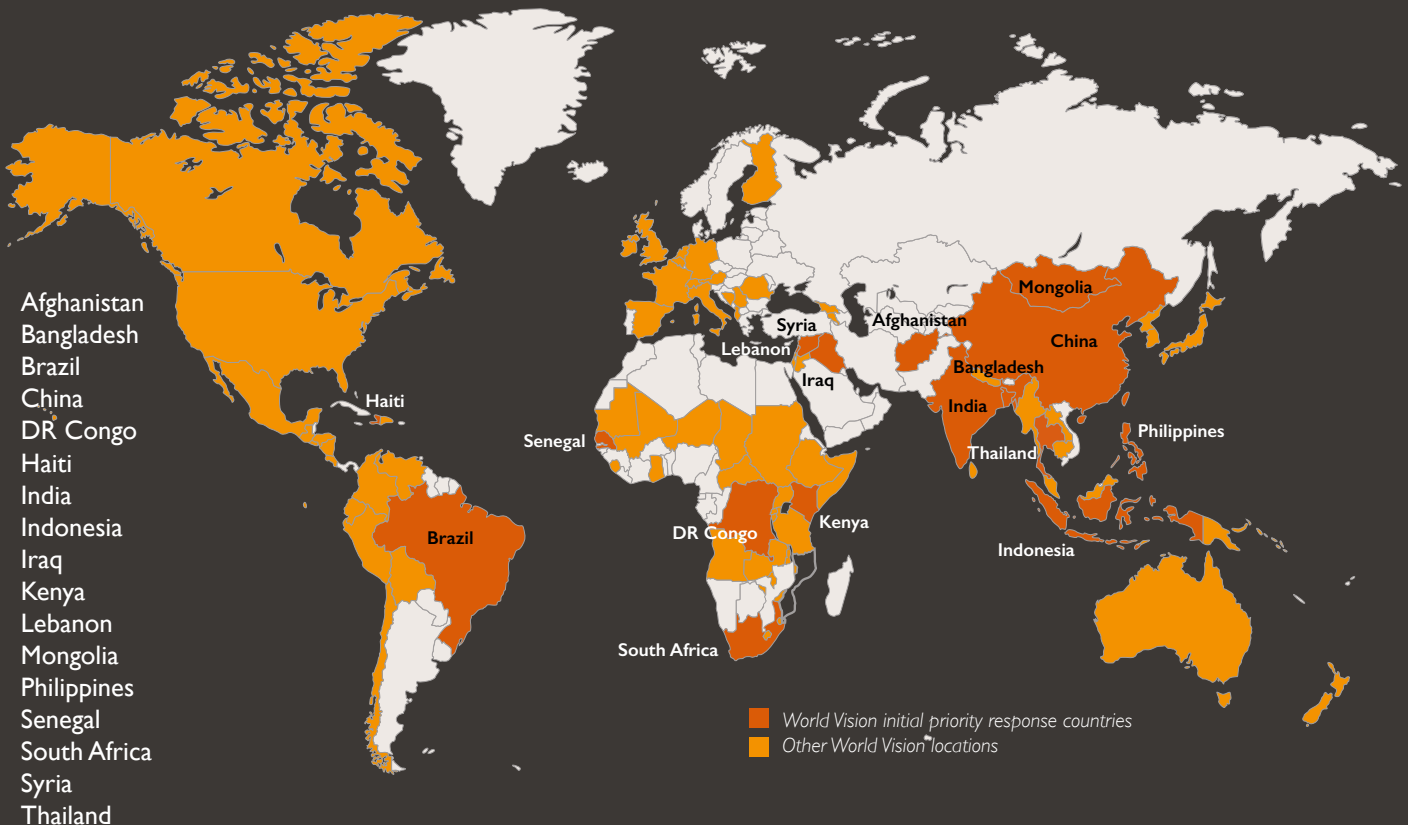
In line with its Grand Bargain commitments, World Vision is allocating

**US \$32 million**

of its development funding as a crisis modifier to help protect development gains, bridge the relief-development divide, and to act quickly, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.

At the time of writing, many countries where World Vision operates are adapting their responses to the ongoing spread of COVID-19. Current funding requirements and country reach are estimated to increase.

## Initial Priority Countries



# World Vision's **Contribution**

to the Strategic Priorities of the United Nations COVID-19  
**Global Humanitarian Response Plan**

## WORLD VISION

COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan  
**Strategic Objectives**



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



**2. Strengthen health systems and workers**

## UNITED NATIONS

COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan  
**Strategic Priorities**



**Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic** and decrease morbidity and mortality.



**3. Support for children** impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food, and livelihoods



**Decrease the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion and livelihoods.**



**4. Collaborate and advocate** to ensure vulnerable children are protected



**Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced people, migrants and host communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic.**



# Summary Overview

The coronavirus disease (or COVID-19), was first documented in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. On 11 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) escalated the designation of this virus outbreak from a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) to a pandemic. Within an hour of the World Health Organization declaration, World Vision declared a Global Emergency Response focusing its initial efforts in 17 countries.

As of April 3, COVID-19 has been confirmed in more than 200 countries. More than one million people have contracted the virus, resulting in over 53,000 deaths. Globally, the growth rate of confirmed cases is doubling every seven days, but in the most affected countries, such as the United States, the number of cases reportedly doubles every four days. This unprecedented spread and speed of infection is stressing health systems all over the world.

In less than two months, the virus spread from Asia into Europe and the Americas, with the African continent expected to be heavily affected next. World Vision is following the trajectory of the coronavirus, and country responses will reflect the pandemic's evolution, adjusting our focus as appropriate to preparedness, response, and recovery. The global COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan will be updated regularly to reflect this.

World Vision is expecting additional humanitarian needs to arise across many countries, with some facing particularly acute crises as a result of the virus. It will especially impact situations of pre-existing fragility and vulnerability, such as in conflict-affected contexts, urban slums, and refugee and internally displaced people settings. These are the places where World Vision's emergency response efforts will be most concentrated.

The challenges of delivering services to children and their families in times of limited access, closed borders and restrictions on movement of people, logistics, and supplies. will require collective advocacy and engagement with decision-makers to ensure ongoing humanitarian access and creation of exceptions for aid workers and relief supplies. This is not only necessary to scale up COVID-19 related services, but also to preserve ongoing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable children and

their families in fragile contexts. Countries vary widely in terms of their capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks. Drawing on lessons learned from responses to past outbreaks, such as Zika and Ebola, we know that a critical step to support existing health systems and structures is working with local partners, such as faith leaders and community health workers, national governments, and the United Nations.

A key focus for World Vision's approach is being prepared to adapt this strategy as contexts change and as communities provide feedback.



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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