

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

World Vision®



Children in a World Vision child sponsorship community in the Philippines learn about safe hygiene practices and habits that can keep them safe from illness. World Vision began these sessions in January, before the pandemic declaration, and has so far reached 66,500 people.

COVID-19 pandemic declaration sparks a global response from World Vision

The World Health Organization on March 12 declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a global pandemic. As of March 17, there have been 194,217 confirmed cases and 7,864 deaths spanning 153 countries. The scale and spread of COVID-19 is a direct threat to countries where World Vision has programs, including nations with weak health systems, and especially where children and families are surviving as displaced persons or refugees.

For the first time in our history, World Vision has declared a Global Health Emergency Response.

Children are witnessing families grappling with lockdowns that prevent parents—who often already are poor—from earning a living. It is likely that as the outbreak ebbs and flows in the coming weeks and months, children in many parts of the world will face serious disruptions to their lives, including school closures, home quarantines, and the psychological distress of witnessing communities living in fear.

With feet on the ground around the globe and strategically located supply centers, World Vision is in a strong position to respond quickly and efficiently. Our expanding response will focus on basic, high-impact interventions in several countries, including the United States. Assessments taking into account transmission rates, ongoing humanitarian response needs, high mortality, health system capacity, population density, and proximity to the epicenter of the pandemic have identified 18 priority countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mongolia, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Thailand, and Vietnam.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

Our response to the outbreak requires activities designed to reach the most people with the most effective tool: information. And just as importantly, we are providing vital supplies to families and the health systems tasked with caring for the sick.

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Activities planned to date include:

- Supporting the non-health needs of children made vulnerable by COVID-19. **Cash and voucher programs, food distributions, and care packs** will help people forced to live in isolation during the pandemic. This also includes support to education ministries to continue lessons if schools are closed (home learning materials or activity packs). It also includes support for engaging and coordinating efforts of child protection advocates and social workers, sharing registration and care protocols to prevent separation of children from families, and preventing stigmatizing children and caregivers during treatment and isolation (psychological first aid).
- Promoting **preventive tactics** to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19, focusing on messages regarding handwashing, cough hygiene (coughing into one's elbow or a tissue), and social isolation, or staying away from crowds. Community health workers/ volunteers and faith leaders trained through our Channels of Hope model will play a vital role, as will radio and digital messaging. Families with children also will receive **hand sanitizer and soap, plus masks if family members are sick with COVID. Hand-washing stations** will be set up and maintained at communal gathering spots.
- Supporting health facilities so they can safely treat COVID-19 and continue key child health and nutrition services. This includes providing protective equipment such as **masks and gloves** as well as supplies that include **pulse oximeters** (to measure oxygen saturation) and **infrared thermometers**. Health volunteers will receive additional training and supplies for home case management, referrals, monitoring, and explaining the risks of COVID. We will help establish safe quarantine/isolation spaces, and provide transportation (drivers and vehicles) for carrying patients and medical specimens.

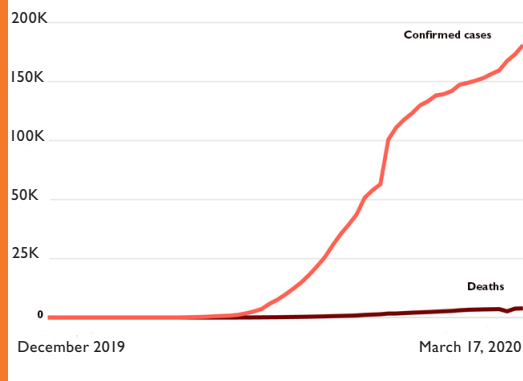
LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

World Vision has created a global Disaster Management Team to lead this response. A manager with more than 30 years of emergency response experience is in place, and key staff positions have been filled. This establishes global standards across all World Vision offices for implementing the response plan developed by the team. The U.S. government has passed bills that provide funds for programs in many of the places where we have existing grants. This creates further opportunities to leverage what we're doing to obtain more government funding. We currently have U.S. government grants in 10 of the 18 priority countries.

MOVING FORWARD

Our global executive oversight group will continue to monitor and assess the pandemic and adapt our response appropriately. In the meantime, may God bless the children and communities affected by the disease; we are praying for them, you, and your families.

COVID-19 cases and deaths



This chart shows the drastic rate at which reported cases of COVID-19 has been spreading around the globe in 2020. These numbers were accurate as of March 17. Visit <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> to see updates on the figures and the global response to the outbreak.

How You Can Help

World Vision already has been providing education and vital household and health facility supplies to prevent and treat illness in the U.S., China, Mongolia, Nepal, and the Philippines. To meet the growing needs, we need your support. Here are a few examples of how your gift can help:

- \$6,000 can provide 100 children's institutions in China with thermal scanning thermometers and disinfectants.
- \$50,000 can provide 12,500 healthcare workers with a two-week supply of respirator masks.
- \$100,000 can provide 4,000 families with thermometers, hand sanitizer, tissues, antibacterial soap, and educational materials.