



World Vision

OUT OF TIME

As families' incomes plummet, millions more children go hungry and are forced to work and beg

COVID-19 AFTERSHOCKS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by World Vision. Lead authors were Carolyn Kabore, Ellie Wong, and Angeline Munzara, with key contributions from members of the Aftershocks 3 Working Group and World Vision's COVID-19 Advocacy Response Group. We especially acknowledge the significant work completed by our colleagues from Asia Pacific Region, Latin America Caribbean Region, and Africa Region along with Vision Fund International for data-gathering, surveying, and analysis, as well as the communities who gave their time to participate in our assessments. We are also grateful for the joint support from World Vision Australia for the completion and promotion of this report.

Editors: Cat-Dan Lai-Smith and Jan Butter

Design: Creative Services - World Vision Global Center Manila

Cover photograph © Consultant

© World Vision International 2020. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form, except for brief excerpts in reviews, without prior permission of the publisher.

World Vision International would appreciate receiving details of any use made of this material in training, research, or programme design, implementation or evaluation.

SUMMARY



Millions of parents and caregivers have lost incomes and jobs due to COVID-19, forcing them to expose their children to harmful and dangerous circumstances such as begging or child marriage. World Vision has conducted rapid assessments in 24 countries across Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia confirming alarming predictions of increased child hunger, violence, and poverty due to the economic impact of COVID-19.

These assessment results give further evidence that the most vulnerable families and their children are hardest hit in such crises. Those living in fragile countries already suffering from conflict, climate change, instability or displacement, and those already receiving humanitarian assistance, are suffering even greater injustices because of pandemics like this one.


Without immediate action to protect people's livelihoods now, the impact of this pandemic will reverse progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, and irreparably damage the lives of current and future generations of children.


KEY FINDINGS OF THE RAPID ASSESSMENTS


 **85 million** households across Asia have no or limited food stocks¹

 **110 million** children are going hungry¹

 **8 million** children have been pushed into child labour and begging¹

 **80%** Venezuelan migrants surveyed in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela reported a significant drop in income²

 **83%** of surveyed migrants said that food was scarce, to the extent that every third child is going to bed hungry – potentially over **1 million** children.²

 **69%** people surveyed are reporting that they are currently earning less than half of pre-COVID-19 income, with the majority of respondents forced to turn to a common coping mechanism: spending less on healthy food.³

The socio-economic fallout from COVID-19 has intensified the daily struggles of vulnerable children and their families everywhere. The pandemic has struck a double blow to displaced families and communities seeking asylum in countries already affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to conflict, climate and other disaster risk. Climate change is already placing over 100 million people at risk of hunger, danger from weather-related disasters⁴, and becoming displaced due to COVID-19⁵. Due to loss of income⁶, these families are unable to provide basic shelter, decent food, and in some cases, evictions are forcing parents to separate from their children.

“The lockdowns are making my family lose the few savings they made from their cake business. All savings are now spent on food and medicine.”
— Elba, Venezuelan migrant child living in Manta

World Vision’s field-level data from 14,000 households in Asia, over 2,400 small business owners in Africa, and more than 360 Venezuelan migrants across Latin America confirms that projections by other global agencies about the impact of the pandemic are already happening.

The United Nations (UN) projects that up to 66 million more children could fall into extreme poverty because of the COVID-19 pandemic, adding to the estimated 385 million children who were already living in extreme poverty in 2019.⁷ Global health journal, The Lancet, also predicts that in the most severe scenario, reduced access to nutritious food could lead to wasting increasing by 50 percent over six months, causing an additional 1.15 million child deaths.⁸

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that the number of people requiring lifesaving food assistance could double to 265 million people worldwide. In addition, the impacts of COVID-19 are now threatening to reverse the significant gains made in reducing child labour, which was down by 94 million cases since 2000.⁹



The socio-economic fallout from COVID-19 is now amplifying the daily struggles of vulnerable families everywhere. Those who rely on daily earning, require access to informal economies, or depend on cash/voucher and in-kind food distributions by aid agencies and governments will be hardest hit.

“I work as a helper in a medical store and did not receive any money for the month of March for which I have worked. When I called the owner, they say even they lack money and cannot pay until the lockdown [is] over.”

– Community leader, Mumbai Baljyoti Project, Maharashtra, India.

World Vision’s assessments have revealed that desperate parents and caregivers are finding it increasingly difficult to provide their children with healthy nutritious food, or to buy necessities such as medicine and hygiene products. In extreme cases, children are being put in harm’s way – sent to work, to beg or even married off early – just so they and their families can eat.

“Support is needed to stop sexual harassment, to stop early marriage and child labour. Parents need counselling to stop child violence in the family. Children need mental support to overcome [their] fears of COVID-19.”

– Maolana Hafez Md. Mizanur, Faith Leader in Bangladesh.

Despite it being the state’s responsibility to provide social protection programmes that ensure people can cope with crises and have the basics of life, about 55 percent of the global population (especially in developing countries and fragile contexts) do not have such coverage.¹⁰ Even before COVID-19 struck, almost two thirds of all children globally – more than 1.3 billion girls and boys – could not access social protection.¹¹

Our findings are confirming that predicted drops in income, food and child protection due to COVID-19 have already begun, and could lead to an increase in extreme poverty and hunger not seen for decades. Urgent action is needed to ensure a more inclusive and resilient economic recovery plan that targets the poor as different regions incrementally start to think about life beyond the COVID-19 crisis. The UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that it would cost approximately US\$90 billion to protect the world’s most vulnerable children and their families from COVID-19’s worst impacts. In stark contrast, this is equivalent to only one percent of what the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 countries have pledged for the global stimulus package.¹²

Clearly, governments, UN agencies, donors, NGOs, and the private sector cannot afford to lose any more time to avert a global food security and poverty crisis. We must do so by ensuring no one is left behind in the push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

As World Vision learned from the Ebola outbreak (2010-2016) in West Africa, damage done by COVID-19 will be irreversible if time runs out to protect both lives and livelihoods.¹³ An assessment carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP showed that people living within and bordering the affected areas suffered more from disruptions to their livelihoods than from the effects of the disease itself.¹⁴



Travel restrictions during Ebola outbreak caused financial challenges and uncertainty for poor households, especially female domestic workers and cross-border traders. Research found that seventy percent of female small-scale traders in Liberia lost their income, which affected their ability to provide their children's basic needs.¹⁵ To make ends meet, some families resorted to negative coping mechanisms to reduce their household financial burdens. These in turn caused spikes in child abuse, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, adolescent pregnancy,¹⁶ child labour and various other forms of violence against children, especially girls.¹⁷

Food insecurity, or lack of financial resources to access healthy food, was also a challenge during the Ebola crisis. Seventy percent of the people interviewed by WFP and FAO said they were eating only one meal per day instead of two to three meals as was the norm before the Ebola outbreak.¹⁸ The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 are presenting similar challenges to the most vulnerable children and their families with the following consequences:

Decreased nutrition due to difficulties in accessing sufficient quantity and quality of food and basic social services: Experts are warning that the pandemic could nearly double the number of people suffering acute hunger, pushing the amount to more than a quarter of a billion by the end of 2020.¹⁹ According to the UN, 368.5 million

children across 143 countries who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition must now look to other food sources.²⁰

Exposure to violence, including child labour and child marriage:

Other recent findings from the United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA) forecast an additional 13 million child marriages over the next ten years due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, adding to the 150 million already expected to occur in that time period.²¹

A decrease of agricultural production and demand: There are fears that upcoming planting seasons will be affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Food systems disruptions could impact the poorest smallholder farmers and agro-pastoralists and their families who are already living in long-term crisis contexts. A missed or delayed planting season could mean a production shortfall, less domestic supply to meet consumer demand, and later, potentially greater pressure on global food markets that will drive up prices and make food even more unaffordable for the poor. These farmers will also face challenges accessing markets to sell their products or buy essential inputs. Informal labourers will suffer from losing their harvesting and processing jobs and income.

A deterioration of livelihoods: The International Labor Organisation (ILO) predicts the loss of five to 25 million global jobs and losses in labour income between USD 860 billion to USD 3.4 trillion.²² COVID-19 is causing loss of jobs and income amongst those who can least afford it, particularly the poor in rural and urban/peri-urban settings, women, smallholder farmers, ultra-poor, refugees, internally displaced persons, workers in the informal sector and micro-small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). As a result, a further 34 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by end of 2020 with an additional 130 million people by 2030.²³

WARNINGS FROM THE PRESENT

World Vision's assessments in 24 countries show that COVID-19 is already affecting parents and caregivers' ability to meet the needs of their children. Without urgent action this will only get worse given that every second child, out of two billion children in the world, is living in poverty.²⁴ If we do not act fast, our findings show how the aftershocks of COVID-19 will threaten the lives and well-being of children in the following ways:

I. Children at risk of hunger and malnutrition

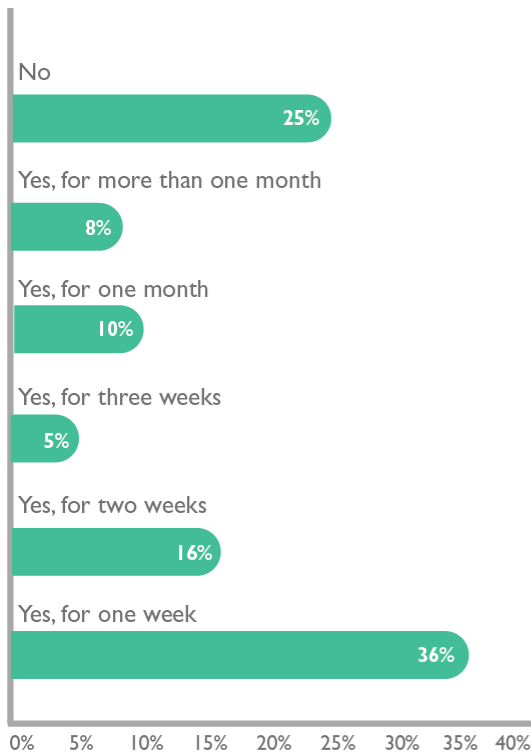
“COVID-19 has led to increased poverty levels in our homes because we are having less income to purchase food items even the prices of foodstuffs have risen.”

– *Sunga Lucy, clothing seller, Zambia*

One third of 14,000 households where we work in nine countries across Asia reported they had already lost jobs or income since the COVID-19 outbreak. Sixty percent of these families depend on casual (daily) labour as a crucial source of income. Amongst this group, 66 percent reported that movement restrictions were severely curtailing their livelihood activities, and 34 percent said transport disruptions caused the biggest problem for their livelihoods. One quarter of all families surveyed did not have any food stocks on hand, and one third had only one week’s supply left. Five percent have already sold productive assets; 39 percent had borrowed from friends or relatives; and 32 percent had drawn on savings, reducing their resilience to future economic shocks. Similarly, 59 percent of respondents from communities where we work in Africa reported turning to a common coping mechanism to financial loss: spending less on healthy and nutritious food.

COVID 19 impacting livelihoods and food security - putting children at risk in vulnerable households in Asia region

Food stocks on hand in households



Household responses to loss of jobs or reduced income



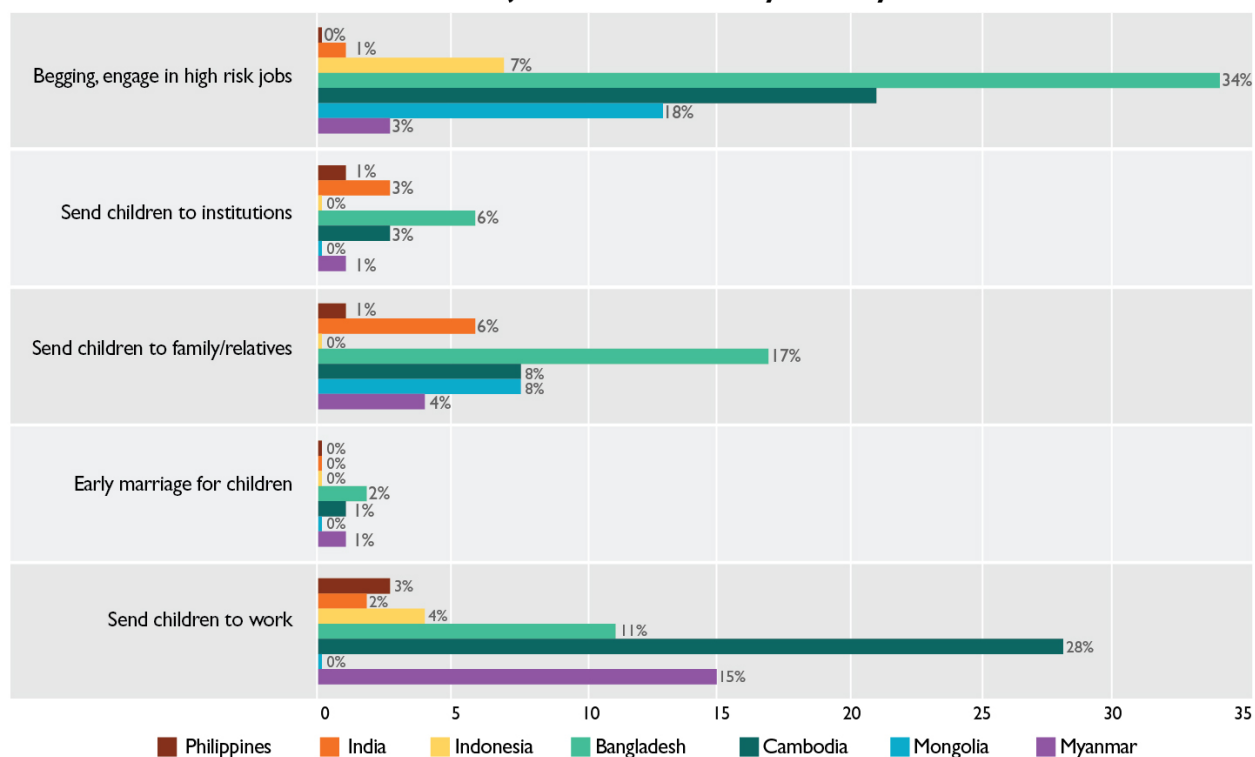
Source: Rapid assessments in 14,000 households in World Vision programs in Asia

2. Children at risk of child labour and child marriages

“Due to the lockdown, there is an increasing risk of child marriage among the children. Two cases of child marriage have already been registered during this period.”
 – Ganga Kumari Khadka, Rupatar, Nepal.

Children from households facing loss of jobs or reduced income are now more at risk because of begging, child labour, child trafficking and early marriage. For example, our Asia region rapid assessment in Cambodia found 28 percent of households facing loss of jobs and income were sending children out to work, and in Bangladesh, 34 percent were sending children to beg. Sample sizes and patterns of response vary widely between countries, but these alarming results could be just the ‘tip of the iceberg’.

Coping mechanisms involving children in households facing loss of jobs and income - by country



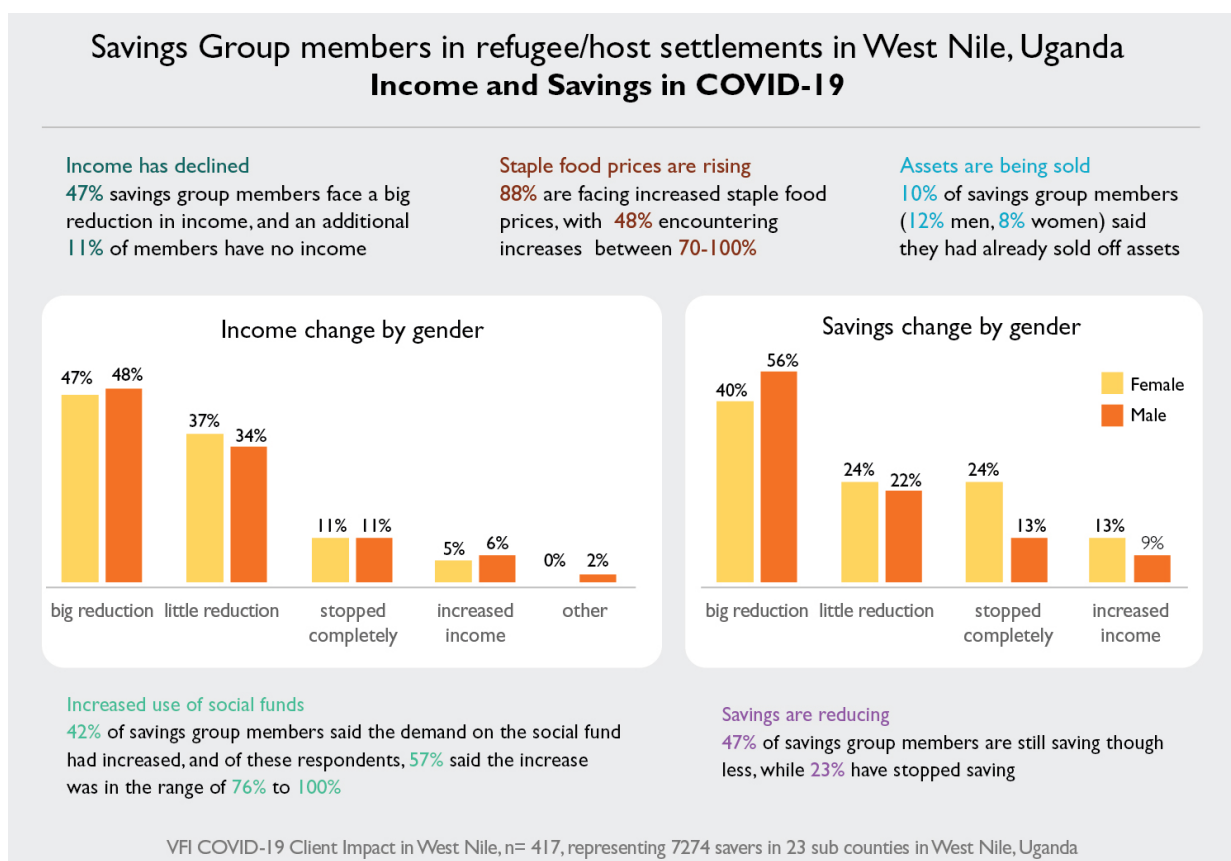
Source: Rapid assessments in 14,000 households in World Vision programs in Asia

3. Children and families living in fragile contexts will suffer the most

“The pandemic has worsened our situation. All of us feel depressed. We are observing the quarantine imposed, but it is hard. Kids have lost weight since they do not attend school because they are not having one of their meals for the day.”
 – Oly, a Venezuelan grandmother.

World Vision’s report about the effects of COVID-19 and migration in countries in Latin America shows that refugees are severely affected by loss of income. Families are unable to provide decent food or shelter for their children, and as many as one third of children are going to bed hungry.²⁵ In Chile, 82 percent of the interviewees report having serious problems obtaining food, and in Venezuela, 70 percent have no access to food²⁶, which means that children under age five are at high risk of being malnourished. The report also shows 28 percent of the children surveyed are at risk of eviction from their homes, with seven percent already having been evicted.

VisionFund International (VFI), World Vision’s microfinance subsidiary surveyed vulnerable, refugee families in West Nile, Uganda, who are members of World Vision’s Savings for Transformation (S4T) savings groups with some startling findings.²⁷ Ten percent of members had already sold productive assets; 47 percent were suffering large reductions in income; and 11 percent had no income at all. The children in these families – often more than six per household – are at major risk and require immediate assistance.²⁸



Communities in Sub Saharan Africa that were already lacking sufficient and nutritious food before the outbreak will be worst hit by the pandemic. An estimated 20 million people have been living without enough food, and 13.6 million in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are already receiving humanitarian assistance.²⁹ The situation is made worse by the presence of huge swarms of desert locust that could lead to dramatic crop loss in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Most parts of the region are experiencing flooding and the resurgence of Ebola in DRC could further complicate the COVID 19 response.³⁰

4. Children living in urban informal settlements at risk of hunger and abuse

“The biggest problem in my community is getting rations. People don’t have enough money to buy things. The ration shops are not open all the time and the food isn’t reaching everyone.”
– Akshaya, Bangalore, India

Over 300 million children living in city slums and informal settlements, known as ‘urban hotspots’, are at heightened risk of hunger and abuse due to COVID-19.³¹ World Vision conducted interviews with sponsored children in India from Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Bangalore which exposes this heartbreaking reality.³²

Travel and social-distancing restrictions in urban slums of India curtail income-earning opportunities, and also reduce or prevent access to government food rations to help those who are hungry. With no income, parents and caregivers must choose between letting their families go hungry or risking contagion or sanctions to earn income and to access food.

Fifteen-year-old Rekha from Delhi says, “There is a problem of food and rations. How will people like daily wage earners manage? My father is also a labourer and even we are finding it hard to manage our home. There are lots of problems in other homes as well. We collected money in our children’s club to help those families who are not getting rations.”

Children of working age, or those already experiencing exploitation as under-aged labourers working on the streets, may also lose the income they were contributing to their household, leading their families to perceive them as an additional financial burden or to subject them to compounded abuse.³³ Our survey in urban slums in India shows that 40 percent of respondents reported a spike in domestic violence since COVID-19 due to travel restrictions and reduction in family income.

Akshaya, a seventh-grade student we interviewed, feels that abuse would stop if people were employed. According to her, “There are a lot of boys who are just roaming around now because of unemployment, and since children are not in school, they are more at risk of getting abused outside.”

5. Families pushed into poverty, as micro-small and medium enterprises lose income

“During COVID-19, the lives of most of daily casual workers in our village are more difficult as they have no job opportunity for earning income, and some have to borrow food from others for livelihoods.”
– Children’s group leader, Nyaung Kone village, Myanmar

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of economic growth and are



by far the largest employers in low-income countries accounting for between 80 and 90 percent of employment.³⁴ Before the crisis, MSMEs were facing a global credit gap of over \$5.2 trillion.³⁵ Women-owned MSMEs, concentrated in the low-profit or low growth sectors, and the informal sector are especially vulnerable. VisionFund conducted an analysis³⁶ in eight African countries (DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) amongst 2,400 micro-entrepreneur clients revealing that 92 percent of surveyed microfinance clients running small businesses are facing reduced income affecting their

loan repayment capacity. Fifty-two percent of clients reported reduced demand for their services whilst 36 percent said their usual customers could no longer afford the services offered.



The analysis found that 80 percent of women in small businesses and involved in informal trading are members of savings for transformation groups, and they now risk losing both their savings and income-generating activities, with potentially devastating impacts on their children.

VisionFund clients in Africa describe the economic effects of COVID-19*

92% face reduced incomes



Clients share that the main challenges driving this are

-  **Decreased demand** for products and services (52%)
-  Their **customers' reduced income** (36%)



Clients report a reduced capacity to repay loans due to businesses not running fully (62%) and lack of income (33%)



*Survey of 2,481 clients from 29 April - 9 May 2020 by VisionFund MFIs in DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Survey questions could have multiple answers per client.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

“Communities shared feedback about their children who used to benefit from school feeding, but are now going hungry as a result of school closures. World Vision and WFP listened and reached a consensus to provide food rations to families of 18,651 children in the Kasai region, who had already been registered and were benefitting from the programme before schools closed.”

– World Vision DRC



Laboni, 26, a single mother of three daughters Ananna, 11, Mahumuda, 9 and Akhi, 7 received cash support from World Vision. She could afford soap after paying their rent and buying food for her family as she wants to maintain good hygiene practices to be safe from COVID-19.

World Vision's COVID-19 Emergency Response plan aims to reach 72 million of the most vulnerable people and 36 million children in 70 countries. This response focuses on helping vulnerable families and their children meet their basic needs in the short-term, while supporting the longer-term economic recovery and rebuilding of livelihoods. To support poverty reduction, child well-being and gender equality outcomes, World Vision is also working on targeted programmes on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture³⁷ and Women's Economic Empowerment.³⁸

Core to World Vision's response is the provision of cash voucher programming and food assistance. This is supporting families to meet basic needs, facilitate improved recovery and preparedness as well as to bolster any disrupted incomes of vulnerable people to prevent harmful coping mechanisms. In response to COVID-19, World Vision plans to reach over 4.4 million vulnerable people, including 2.2 million children, in more than 35 countries via cash programming. We have already reached over 786,000 people with almost USD \$12 million distributed in recent weeks.

Our vision for COVID-19 economic recovery is to bridge the development, humanitarian and peace nexus and help affected communities bounce back stronger. We have grown and supported 54,400 Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups³⁹ in 34 countries with 1.3 million members (80 percent of whom are women). This includes 505,335 caregivers who look after 1,265,338

children. As the economic impact of this crisis threatens, we have helped 3,335 savings groups adapt and continue to meet in safe ways. We are also supporting our savings groups members by working with VisionFund, our microfinance subsidiary, to extend loan repayment plans and providing recovery loans.

Case Study: World Vision Supports Inclusive Economic Recovery & Resilience in Somalia

In 2016-17, consecutive years of poor rainfall tipped Somalia into drought, and a severe food crisis ensued. This had a devastating impact on the poor, especially women who had stayed in rural areas when many men migrated. Short-term food assistance and cash/voucher programmes helped vulnerable households to meet immediate needs. At the same time, a holistic recovery strategy to promote sustainable livelihoods, food security, climate change adaptation and improved environment outcomes was needed to address poverty and hunger in the longer term. In 2017-2019, the Somalia Resilience Program (SomRep) Consortium, led by World Vision, engaged closely with government actors to complete an economic recovery assessment and livelihood recovery plan. This is focused on building the resilience of poor households through market-based support to smallholder farmers and pastoralists. The focus is on improving water access and includes a cash-for-work programme for drought-affected households. The programme also incorporates sustainable management of natural resources, including Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), a low-cost land restoration technique that involves the systematic regrowth and management of trees and shrubs. A key lesson from SomRep is the importance of 'bottom up' consultation, and the need for government, UN and NGO actors to agree on priorities and collective outcomes for the recovery. Results included increased food consumption, greater participation in savings groups, and improved adaptive capacity, all of which contributed to increased resilience

World Vision and VisionFund are prepared to provide disaster recovery loans for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as soon as the peak of the crisis has passed and businesses are able to restart trading." Access to finance in the short-term is critical to business continuity.

In response to COVID-19, World Vision is adapting our inclusive market systems development programmes. We are working to analyse disrupted market systems to identify recovery strategies that both engage market forces and support the productive capacity of poor households with the goal of sustainable economic recovery in 70 countries. Given the concentration of the poor in agriculture, we are focusing on food and agriculture market systems, subsistence farmers and rural households.

Our Ultra-Poor Graduation⁴⁰ (UPG) programme provides extremely poor households, particularly ones headed by women, with a pathway out of poverty. We do this by offering an integrated package of assistance, savings groups, training and assets (e.g. seeds, sewing machines, livestock, etc.) coupled with ongoing coaching support, to enable the most vulnerable families to escape the extreme poverty trap. UPG is central to World Vision's Fragile Contexts Programme Approach⁴¹ (FCPA). Piloted in multiple countries, the FCPA is designed to help the most vulnerable households survive, adapt and thrive now and in the future. Due to the high levels of extreme poverty among refugees and host communities in low-income countries, World Vision is part of the innovative Poverty Alleviation Coalition⁴². This is a collective effort together with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and 13 organisations to fundraise and provide programming support to 500,000 refugees and host communities.

World Vision is collaborating with faith actors in our community development response because we acknowledge the vital role that faith plays in people's lives and how they view the world. Our Empowered World View⁴³ curriculum fills this gap through an approach that is faith-based and reaches deep into people's core beliefs, transforming their view of the world so that the cycle of chronic poverty and hopelessness can be broken. A richer understanding of their faith changes how they see the world and their ability to have an influence on their own circumstances. Empowered Worldview is the foundation for World Vision's Building Secure Livelihoods⁴⁴ project model, which equips farmers to improve their incomes by learning improved agricultural and marketing techniques. This combination of mindset change and practical capacity-building has demonstrated its effectiveness on improving family incomes and improving child well-being.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is critical for the world to act now in order to prevent a looming global food and poverty crisis as part of the COVID-19 response before children pay the price. Based on our decades of experience working with children, families and communities in crises and bridging the humanitarian and development divide, World Vision calls on governments, UN agencies, donors, NGOs, and the private sector to act together to:

Case Study: Microfinance Recovery Lending During Crises

In 2013 Typhoon Haiyan devastated livelihoods in the Philippines. In 2014-15 extreme weather caused by El Niño destroyed agricultural production in Kenya, Malawi, and Zambia. In 2015 floods in Myanmar destroyed homes and livelihoods. After each of these disasters, VisionFund provided 'recovery' loans to enable micro- and small-business owners to rebuild livelihoods and recover quickly to previous levels of earning and resilience. More than 95% of these recovery loans were repaid on time. 4,800 loans were issued in the Philippines; 6,600 in Kenya and Zambia. An independent evaluation (funded by the UK's DfID) found loan recipients "were able to increase or maintain livestock, household, and productive assets, and savings" and reported that loans prevented negative coping strategies such as selling productive assets. In Sierra Leone during the Ebola crisis, VisionFund and World Vision, in partnership with other NGOs and funded by DfID, supported 42,000 small traders to restart their businesses by providing small loans and grants.

Urgently scale up child sensitive social protection measures (such as food, cash and voucher assistance) to help poor families meet immediate food, nutrition and income needs of children:

Prioritise life-saving interventions for the most nutritionally vulnerable groups such as children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women. Where school closures limit children's access to school meals programmes, develop innovative ways to ensure those children continue to access food through such means as delivering food to homes. This can reduce children's exposure to different forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse (such as begging, child marriage, and child labour) and the likelihood that they will drop out of school post-crisis.

Prioritise life-saving and gender responsive interventions for the most vulnerable groups: Preference should also be given to female-headed households, people with chronic illnesses such as HIV and AIDS, persons with disabilities, and displaced communities (e.g., those living in urban hot spots as well as fragile contexts, and especially those countries hosting forcibly displaced populations). Ensure refugees are integrated into government social protection systems where they exist and national economic recovery plans. Priority should be given to multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance (digital/mobile money transfers as much as is feasible) programmes. Effective social accountability mechanisms should also be put in place to ensure delivery of public services reach the targeted populations.

Ensure continuity of the supply chain for essential commodities and services⁴⁵ to preserve most vulnerable populations' lives and livelihoods. Support the UN Humanitarian Air Service's capacity to quickly move more essential goods and people in support of the COVID-19 humanitarian response. This includes greater pre-positioning of critical resources (e.g., food, cash, medical/health supplies, etc.) as close to affected populations as possible and frontloading food/cash distributions for two to three months.



Keep food and agriculture market systems functioning. Prioritise the rapid analysis, response and adaptations to food and agricultural markets. Policies should support the continued global, national, regional and local trade of essential commodities. Priority should be

placed to support smallholders, pastoralists and agricultural workers to access finance, purchase agricultural and livestock supplies, and sell their crops in markets. This in turn will help to maintain food supply chains between rural, peri-urban, and urban areas and within and between countries. Ensure people along the food supply chain are not at risk of COVID-19 transmission by raising awareness about food safety and health regulations, including rights, roles and responsibilities.

Protect jobs, wages and livelihoods of the poorest to guarantee households have income. Provide funding to support MSMEs (in particular, those led and owned by women) in order to prevent job losses and allowing for faster economic recovery. Debt financing should allow flexible repayments, grace periods and ensure timely delivery. Similarly, provide technical assistance and coaching so MSMEs can adapt operations to keep workers and customers safe and respond to changing markets.

Commit to a major “Marshall Plan style⁴⁶” multi-stakeholder, global partnership to rebuild developing country economies from the bottom of the pyramid⁴⁷: This will require major investments by the private sector, governments and other actors into local and national market systems that promote growth, resilience and provide employment to vulnerable groups. Ensure humanitarian activities like cash and voucher programmes are linked to longer-term financial inclusion and economic recovery activities to help the most vulnerable communities bounce back faster and stronger. This plan will help build their financial capacities to provide the basic needs of their children and protect them from falling into extreme poverty.

Invest in interventions promoting a green recovery. Develop economic recovery interventions that integrate resilience to climate change and restore environmental assets central to food security, safety nets and natural resource-based livelihoods. This includes large-scale actions to decarbonise economies and restore degraded landscapes, as well as more localised climate change adaptation, and risk reduction measures. These can reduce community exposure and vulnerability to climate-related hazards that disrupt and destroy livelihoods and local economies.



“Our major food markets are also closed but I am not struggling to provide food for my family. I sell the vegetables to customers within my community, which is really helping us to get income.”

– Evans, Farmer Nyamusi, Kenya who World Vision is supporting to continue income generation activities (World Vision International 2020)

APPENDIX I: METHODOLOGY

Methodology and limitations for extrapolated values based on Asia Pacific Regional Office rapid assessment household survey results

The main purposes of World Vision's rapid assessment in the Asia region were to obtain a broad picture of COVID-19 impact in World Vision's operational areas where the organisation implements long-term community development programming for communities that are highly vulnerable. The assessment aids in anticipating risks and strategic opportunities to support vulnerable children and their families for the next four to six months. A mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection was used. The household survey and child consultation survey were used as the main quantitative techniques and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were used as a primary qualitative technique. In addition, a desk review of secondary data was also conducted in order to understand the broader dynamics. The surveys were implemented in May, 2020 and conducted largely by telephone or face to face with appropriate physical distancing.⁴⁸

Due to the limitations of collecting household (HH) survey data during the pandemic variations of Non-probability sampling was used and household interviews were conducted either face-to-face, or remotely by telephone survey – the latter may skew results towards HHs with phone ownership. HHs were sampled from 335 World Vision Area Programmes (APs) representing 90 percent of APs across the nine countries. However, AP populations across the nine countries are heterogeneous, and AP populations themselves are unlikely to reflect the broader population of the country. The number of households sampled per country varied depending on a number of factors including time and resources available as well as access, location and scale of the AP programme. Therefore, results of the rapid assessment reflect conditions in the surveyed households, and we recognise they may not accurately represent the broader population in each AP or in each country.

However, we considered the possibility that these findings were reflecting an alarming situation unfolding in households across these countries, which is why we decided to extrapolate results exploring impact on income, food availability and coping, to national and regional levels.

Survey results were weighted to each country's proportional representation in the total sample of 14,166 households. Total population and average household size for each country used values available from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (where available). These were used to calculate the total number households present in each of the surveyed countries.

When countries had no data for a question, they were excluded from the analyses. Survey question results (percentage HHs) for each country were used to calculate the number of HHs potentially affected at national scale, and this was multiplied by the average number of children under 15/HH for that country, to provide the number of children under 15 who were potentially affected.

Latin America Rapid Assessment Methodology

To pinpoint the impact of these measures on the life of children, adolescents and migrants from and in Venezuela, World Vision has performed research in seven countries in the region (Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) to report on the situation. To figure out the details inherent to the exercise and vulnerability of children's rights, a total of 392 surveys have been applied in this sub region during the month of April, 2020. From all of these surveys, 363 were answered completely by children, adolescents and young people who currently live in the aforementioned countries were systematized.

From this sample, 29.47% of children, adolescents and young people currently live in Colombia, 23.14% lived in Brazil, 18.18% live in Peru, 12.67% live in Ecuador, 7.71% live in Chile, 5.23% live in Bolivia, and 3.58% live in Venezuela. Some 57.6% of all the children who were questioned are younger than 11 years old, 32.8% are between 11 and 15 years old, and 9.6% are between 16 and 18 years old. Of all this population, 89.5% live in the city and 10.5% live in the country. It is important to point out that more than half of the people who were questioned are girls. Moreover, the low sample percentage in Venezuela is due to local restrictions with the Internet service and other logistical issues.

The tool that was used in the survey, both online and in person, was KoBoCollect (which is based on OpenDataKit) and is used to collect primary data in humanitarian emergencies and in other settings that involved challenging areas.



Photo © Chris Huber

Africa Rapid Assessment Methodology

VisionFund undertook a survey of 2,481 micro-entrepreneurs who were currently borrowing from the local VisionFund microfinance institution in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: DRC (288 clients, 12% of the total); Ghana (330 clients, 13%); Kenya (324 clients, 13%); Malawi (182 clients, 7%); Rwanda (350 clients, 14%); Tanzania (314 clients, 13%); Uganda (242 clients, 10%); and Zambia (387 clients, 16%). The locations of an additional 64 interviewees were not available so are not included in individual country statistics but are included the regional results. The respondents were 56% female and 44% male, and the livelihoods activities were trade (65%), services (15%), manufacturing (2%), and agriculture (18%).

The purpose of this survey was to gain information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of people in the clients' households as well as the effects on the clients' livelihoods. The survey was conducted by telephone by employees of VisionFund in each country between 29 April and 5 May 2020.

For more information about the methodology or the data used for this report, please contact livelihoods@wvi.org.

REFERENCES

¹ These figures were extrapolated from the results of an early recovery rapid assessment of over 14,000 households in World Vision programmes in nine countries in the Asia region. See the methodology in the appendix for more information.

² Based on World Vision's survey of 392 migrants in seven countries in Latin America. See the methodology in Appendix I for more information.

³ These statistics were average data of surveys of 2,481 clients from 29 April - 9 May 2020 by VisionFund microfinance institutions in DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. See the methodology in Appendix I for more information.

⁴ IPCC (2019) Special Report on Climate Change and Land [online] Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

⁵ Le Monde diplomatique (2020) What does COVID-19 mean for people displaced by climate change? [online] Available at: <https://mondediplo.com/outsidein/covid-19-climate-change>

⁶ Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

⁷ UN (2020) UN Policy Brief on Impact of COVID-19 on Children [online] Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_children_16_april_2020.pdf

⁸ The Lancet (2020) Early estimates of the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and child mortality in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study Available at: <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2214-109X%2820%2930229-1>

⁹ ILO (2020) COVID-19 and child labour: A time of crisis, a time to act. [online] Available at: https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_747421/lang--en/index.htm?ssSourceSiteId=global

¹⁰ UNDP News (2020) COVID-19: Looming crisis in developing countries threatens to devastate economies and ramp up inequality [online] Available at: https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/COVID19_Crisis_in_developing_countries_threatens_devastate_economies.html

¹¹ ILO-UNICEF (2019) Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3 [online] Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_669336.pdf

¹² UN OCHA (2020) Updated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/updated-covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan>

¹³ USAID FEWS NET (2017) United States Agency for International Development: Famine Early Warning Systems Network [online] Available at: https://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Ebola%20and%20Livelihoods_20170630.pdf

¹⁴ FAO and UN (2014) Deterioration of livelihoods in Ebola-affected countries [online] Available at: <http://www.fao.org/Africa/News/Detail-News/En/C/270397>

¹⁵ Korkoya and Wreh (2015) Ebola Impact Revealed: An Assessment of the Differing Impact of the Outbreak on Women and Men in Liberia [online] Available at: https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/rr-ebola-impact-women-men-liberia-010715-en.pdf

- ¹⁶ Save the Children (2015) Children Report Increased Exploitation, Teenage Pregnancies in Ebola-Affected Sierra Leone [online] Available at: <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2015-press-releases/children-report-increased-exploitation--teenage-pregnancies-in-e>
- ¹⁷ World Vision (2020) COVID-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm [online] Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm>
- ¹⁸ Fao, Ibid
- ¹⁹ World Food Programme (WFP) (2020) COVID-19 will double number of people facing food crises unless swift action is taken [online] Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/news/covid-19-will-double-number-people-facing-food-crises-unless-swift-action-taken>
- ²⁰ UN Policy Brief (2020) The Impact of COVID-19 on children [online] Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_children_16_april_2020.pdf.
- ²¹ UNFPA (2020) Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage. Interim Technical Note [online] Available at: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_impact_brief_for_UNFPA_24_April_2020_1.pdf
- ²² International Labour Organization (2020) COVID-19 and the world of work: Impact and policy responses [online] Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_738753.pdf
- ²³ United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020) World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2020. May 2020
- ²⁴ The Borgen Project (2017) Top 20 Poverty Facts [online] Available at: <https://borgenproject.org/20-poverty-facts/>
- ²⁵ World Vision (2020) Migration and COVID-19: Venezuelan children between a rock and a hard place [online] Available at: <https://www.worldvisionamericalatina.org/sala-de-prensa/between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place>
- ²⁶ Ibid
- ²⁷ VisionFund (2020) Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Saving Groups in Uganda. [online] Available at: <https://www.visionfund.org/stories/impact-covid-19-refugee-saving-groups-uganda>
- ²⁸ Vision Fund International (2020) COVID-19 Client Impact in West Nile, Uganda [online] Available at: https://wvi365.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/GlobalLivelihoodsTeam/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B8f0688ac-ed9-4e28-8113-90a48ad9912d%7D&action=edit&wdPid=7aa3ff4a&cid=347a217b-b6f6-4dad-9b77-2cb896a59ba9
- ²⁹ Reliefweb (2020) The ripple effect of COVID-19 on economic activities, livelihoods and food security in East Africa and the Great Lakes [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/ripple-effect-covid-19-economic-activities-livelihoods-and-food-security-east-africa>
- ³⁰ Ibid
- ³¹ World Vision (2020) COVID-19 & the Risks to Children in Urban Contexts
- ³² World Vision, Seven Families, Seven Journeys: A Story of Urban Life in India [online] Available at: <https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/urban-life-india-7-families-7-journeys>
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ International Labour Organisation (2019) Small Matters: Global evidence on the contribution to employment by the self-employed, micro-enterprises and SMEs [online] Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_723282.pdf
- ³⁵ International Finance Corporation (2017) MSME Finance Gap: Assessment of the Shortfalls and Opportunities in Financing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in Emerging Markets [online] Available at: <https://openknowledge>.

worldbank.org/handle/10986/28881

³⁶ VisionFund (2020) VisionFund Africa MFI Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Clients [online] Available at: <https://www.visionfund.org/stories/visionfund-africa-mfi-survey-impact-covid-19-clients>

³⁷ World Vision (2020) Improving Nutrition through Agriculture [online] Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/nutrition/nutrition-sensitive-agriculture>

³⁸ World Vision Australia (2020) Women's Economic Empowerment Fact Sheet [online] Available at: https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/australasian-aid-conference-2020/8874_aac_wee_factsheet_final.pdf?sfvrsn=2860a03c_2

³⁹ A savings group is a voluntary group of 15-25 members who save together in a safe, convenient and flexible way and lend out savings as credit to improve businesses or cope with household emergencies.

⁴⁰ WVI (2020) Ultra Poor Graduation Project Model [online] Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/economic-development/ultra-poor-graduation>

⁴¹ World Vision (2019) A Brighter Future for Fragile Contexts [online] Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/brighter-future-fragile-contexts>

⁴² Poverty Alleviation Coalition (2019) Available at: <https://alleviate-poverty.org/>

⁴³ World Vision (2017) Breaking the Chains of Poverty with Empowered World View [online] Available at: https://www.worldvisionphilanthropy.org/hubfs/resources/E-books/World_Vision_Empowered_Worldview_BOOK.pdf

⁴⁴ World Vision (2019) Building Secure Livelihoods Approach [online] Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/economic-development/building-secure-livelihoods>

⁴⁵ FAO (2020) Covid-19 And The Risk To Food Supply Chains: How To Respond? [online] Available at: <https://Doi.Org/10.4060/Ca8388en>

⁴⁶ BBC (2005) Marshall Plan: Reconstructing Europe [online] Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4152797.stm>

⁴⁷ The poorest two-thirds of the economic human pyramid, a group of more than four billion people living in abject poverty.

⁴⁸ APRO Early Recovery Assessment v 0