



World Vision is responding to the impact of COVID-19 in 17 countries in the Asia Pacific, especially in places where children and families are most vulnerable.



COVID-19 Deaths: 186,357

(COVID-19 case and death figures for 15 countries with available data. Source: <u>WHO</u>, 12 December 2020)

People Reached



Men 4,383,446 Women 4,640,450

Children 6,831,931

Boys 3,450,846 Girls 3,381,085

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020)

Asia Pacific Regional Situation Report

Situation Report #22 | 14 December 2020

Several countries in Asia Pacific are experiencing new surge of COVID-19 cases and have tightened restriction measures. On 11 November, the government of Mongolia announced a five-day nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the virus.¹

At the same time, countries are faced with challenges of natural disasters, including floods, typhoon/cyclone, and La Niña. These recurring natural disasters, in addition to the ongoing pandemic and economic downturn put children at greater risk of food insecurity and make them more vulnerable to health-related issues.

World Vision is currently responding to floods and typhoons in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. In the Philippines, the ongoing Typhoon Goni and Vamco Response has reached over 6,400 families with shelter, hygiene, and kitchen kits and non-food items² While hurrying to support families with in-kind items, protection services, and cash assistance to reduce suffering and meet basic needs, World Vision also takes serious precautions to protect its staff and communities against the coronavirus.

Key Concerns

- Due to a surge of cases in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the government imposed a full lockdown, restricting movements across the country. World Vision will use its existing resources to conduct small-scale responses to support food and/or cash needs.
- Sri Lanka is also experiencing another wave of COVID-19. World Vision is updating its response plans and utilising existing resources to respond to the needs of the communities.
- The presence of multi-hazard risks in a global pandemic situation demands COVID-19 preparedness plans to rely heavily on real-time ground data and risk analysis combined with social registries of poor households at risk of hazard exposure to help with geographic prioritisation.

 <u>https://montsame.mn/en/read/242695</u>
<u>https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/one-month-world-vision-assists-over-27000-people-</u> typhoon-battered-luzon

Single mother of two is grateful for livelihood restoration amid COVID-19

Stories from the frontlines

In a countrywide lockdown that extended for more than three months, Guddiya, 36, lost her only source of income. A widow and a mother of two school-going children, she is the only breadearner in the family.

Guddiya's husband used to run a roadside tea stall in north Delhi before he passed away in 2012. That little makeshift tea stall under the banyan tree became her workplace. Before the lockdown, she worked 12 hours a day serving tea and snacks. When the lockdown began on 25 March 2020, she was forced to shutdown her business.

"During the lockdown, we got assistance from World Vision and the government," said Guddiya. She received dry rations from World Vision India's COVID-19 response. "But I also used up all of my little savings because I couldn't work for three months."

Guddiya's two sons, Minashu, 17, and Subham, 12, a sponsored child, are both enrolled in government school. Guddiya who didn't attend school knows the importance of education, and, as a single mother, wants to give them the best. She spends at least 1,000 rupees (US\$14) on private tutoring for her sons. Their education is her long-term investment.

"When I wanted to open my tea stall again, I had no savings left. This was when I got another assistance from World Vision. I'm so grateful that I can resume my business," she shared.

Guddiya received help through World Vision's economic development assistance programme. This initiative provides a little push for struggling families to stand back on their feet. It helps people start small businesses, like tea stalls, petty shops, or vegetable carts. Beneficiaries repay 20% of the amount received to a World Vision initiated self-help group or child protection unit so that the funds can be recirculated and reach more people.

Guddiya received goods from this fund worth 8,000 rupees (US\$110), giving her business a fresh start.

"I needed sugar, tea packets, snacks, and other essentials, and World Vision India gave me that. Before the lockdown, I'd earn around 300 rupees (US\$4) a day. Things are slowly going back to normal."

Now, Guddiya earns around 200 rupees (US\$3) each day -a big step forward for her. Her business restoration success bodes well for the future of her children who are dependent on her.

Thanks to this support, Minashu and Subham are able to continue their education; they receive worksheets from their teachers

through WhatsApp. While face-to-face classes would be more effective, this is the best opportunity they have to continue studying while the country is still fighting the pandemic.

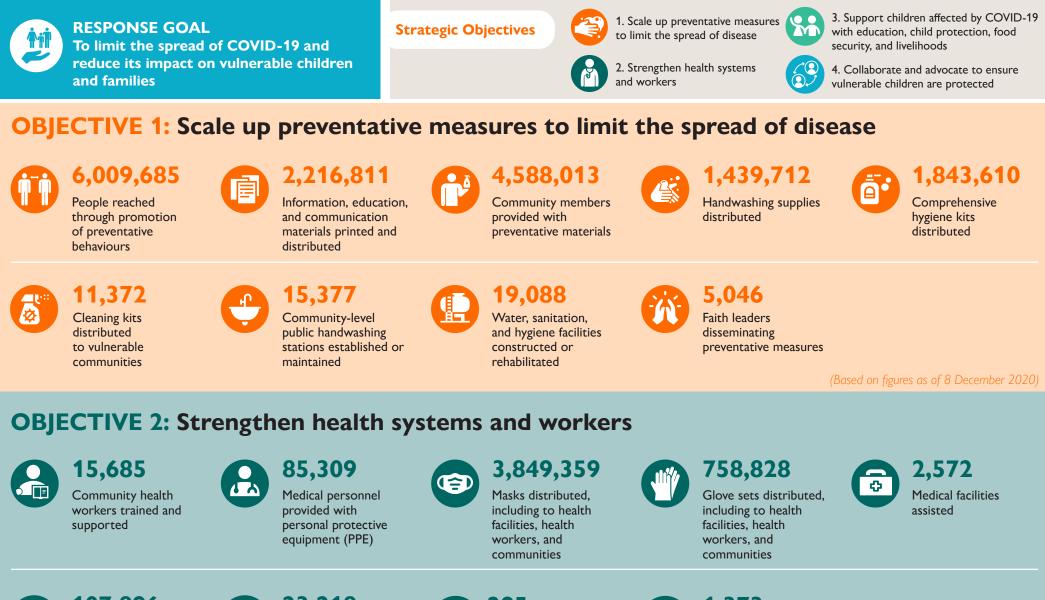
"I want to be an engineer," said Subham, sitting by his mother as she made tea for customers.

To date, World Vision India has reached 208,474 beneficiaries through cash and voucher programming; 18,168 households were provided livelihoods assets, and 5,381 small entrepreneurs were supported with assistance to restart businesses.



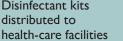








107,896 Disinfectant kits





People supported with the securing of safe quarantine and/or isolation spaces 295

Quarantine and isolation spaces supported, rehabilitated or set up People provided transportation support

(Based on figures as of 8 December 2020) 3

OBJECTIVE 3: Support children affected by COVID-19 with education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods



OBJECTIVE 4: Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

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49

Global, regional, and national policy changes achieved through advocacy and external engagement to improve the international responses to COVID-19



External engagements where World Vision is advocating on priorities, including ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19



External actions, including sign ons and public statements 498

External engagements with Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders^ where World Vision is chairing, presenting, or leading 133

External engagements with faith actors where World Vision is chairing, presenting, or leading

^Examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stakeholders include: WFP, WHO, Global Fund, UNICEF, UNHRC, UNOCHA, and national governments.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kunal Shah

Acting Regional Humanitarian Emergency Affairs Director Asia Pacific Region kunal_shah@wvi.org Lindsey Ruffolo Regional Grants Acquisition Director Asia Pacific Region lindsey_ruffolo@wvi.org

Annila Harris Humanitarian Emergency Communications Asia Pacific Region annila_harris@wvi.org