

Sudan COVID-19 situation update

As at 20 April 2020

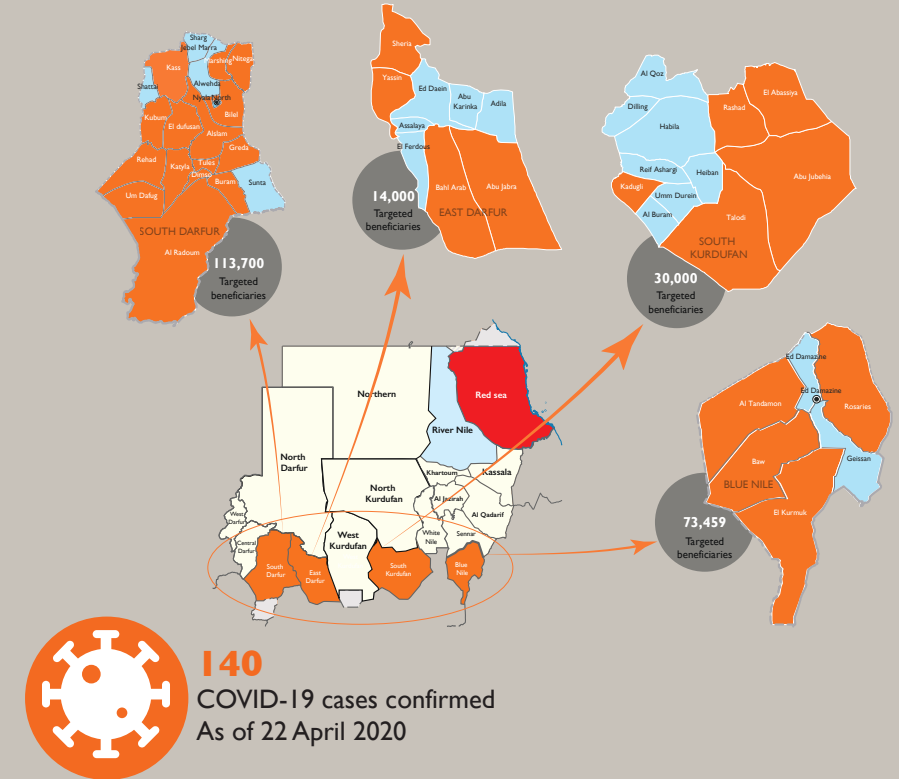
General situation

- A three-weeks long lockdown in the capital, Khartoum is being implemented since 18 April 2020, as part of the public health emergency plan to mitigate the risk of further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Movements have only been allowed from 6am to 1pm to facilitate citizens to access essential services. The rest of the country is under a 6pm to 6am curfew.
- All airports, ports and land crossings remain closed to passenger aircrafts, except for humanitarian, commercial and technical support shipments. Additionally, restrictions on all public gathering and movement remain in place, including learning institutions countrywide which remain closed.
- The government continues to proactively share preventive and self-awareness guidelines with the public, in an effort to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate the risk of infection.

Impact on WV programming and operations

- Measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as restrictions on travel and gatherings including social distancing have presented unique challenges for humanitarian operations, which has necessitated suspension of non-essential activities that would normally require significant gatherings such as trainings and community mobilisations.
- World Vision has intensified its preventative measure to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection by staff and communities, while ensuring continuity of essential activities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.
- World Vision has also enhanced the protection of frontline staff and volunteers facilitating the continuity of essential activities by equipping them with personal protective equipment.
- In addition, COVID-19 response activities have been integrated into existing programmes, including intensifying risk communication campaigns, dissemination of preventative messages and promotion of behaviour change. At the same time, with donors' approval, World Vision has begun re-programming existing essential activities that require significant gatherings to activities geared towards COVID-19 response.
- As part of precautionary measures to minimise the risk of exposure to the most vulnerable communities through gatherings and the number of times they have to visit the distribution sites, in consultation with the World Food Programme, the food assistance team has started providing double-ration distributions to cover beneficiaries for two months.

Map showing WV COVID-19 response target population



Key messages

- World Vision is greatly concerned about the continued increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Sudan. We consider the threat of the disease being particularly greater for the most vulnerable populations, including at least 9.3 million people currently in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Additionally, given the contagious nature of the coronavirus and how it spreads, the estimated 1.87 million people displaced internally and living in crowded camps, remain at greatest risk.
- World Vision is working alongside the Government and Partners to prevent the spread of coronavirus in Sudan, ensure the most vulnerable children and their families are protected from its threat, and continuing with other lifesaving activities to cushion the most vulnerable against the potential impact of COVID-19.

World Vision Sudan response priorities

Duty of care to staff:

- World Vision Sudan has put in place a number of precautionary measures to protect its staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include regularly sharing of Government and WHO approved messaging on COVID-19, and providing staff with basic protective items such as face masks and gloves.
- Information posters with messaging from WHO and Government have also been printed and placed in strategic places in the offices. Additionally, all office premises have been supplied with the recommended hand sanitizers mounted at entrance and exit points, and hand washing stations have water and soap at all times.
- To further reduce the risk of infection and transmission, staff have been facilitated to work remotely. All Khartoum-based staff are working from home in line with the three-weeks long total lock down.

- Equally at the field level, World Vision has provided for flexibility in working arrangements in a bid to reduce physical presence of staff in the offices, and in step with physical and social distancing guidelines.
- To ensure business continuity, all our field offices remain open, and our implementation plans continue in all the four states. Our essential interventions such as operating of clinics, food assistance programming are ongoing and World Vision has enforced all the COVID-19 safety protocols, provided by Government and WHO, to ensure safety of frontline staff, as well preventing the risk to community.

Operations and programming

World Vision is prioritising preparedness and preventive measures in close coordination and collaboration with government, humanitarian partners, and our community networks such as the faith leaders.

Additionally, for community engagement and awareness campaigns, World Vision has long-established strong community networks such as the Faith Leaders, community committees, child protection networks and national NGO partners that it is engaging with, to collectively respond to the threat of COVID-19. Our response efforts will be contributing to the below goals:

- Limit the spread of coronavirus in Sudan
- Protect lives
- Reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable children and families through safety net and livelihoods programmes.

Priority response sectors at a glance



Support frontline staff with personal protective equipment, support health facilities and Ministry of Health to be better prepared and adequately respond to COVID-19



Children and their communities have access to potable water and practise proper handwashing



Provide safe hygiene and sanitation practices including provision of handwashing stations, water, soap and sanitisers.



Provide food and livelihoods assistance to vulnerable children and their families for proper nourishment through food and cash assistance and safety net programmes



Reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of the most vulnerable children

COVID-19 preparedness and response pillars

We are also participating in the WASH, Health sectors, and INGOs coordination forum at both federal level and state level across East Darfur, South Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

World Vision is also a significant contributor to the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP). COVID-19 response has been categorised into 8 pillars in the CPRP and World Vision is contributing to the below pillars:

- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).
- Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation.
- Operational and logistical support to MoH for COVID-19 response.

Latest achievements for the reporting period

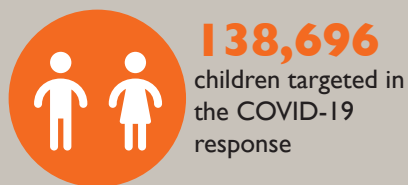
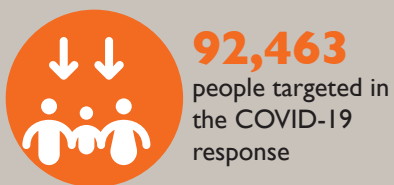
- As part of measures to minimise the number of gatherings for food distributions, the food assistance program carried out a double ratio distribution for 45,690 IDPs and 825 refugees in South Darfur, covering April and May. In total, 411 metric tons of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt was provided.
- 65 handwashing equipment were distributed to be used in public places such as mosques, churches, government institutions, bus station, and health centres. World Vision also provided soap for 10 clinics it operates through the support of ECHO (in total 22 cartons of carboric soap was distributed).
- World Vision engaged 34 faith leaders in East Darfur and South Kordofan in COVID-19 awareness creation and community engagement through radio campaigns, road shows, and announcements in places of worship. The faith leaders have also been spreading messages of hope, as well offering public prayers to the community.
- World Vision partnered with South Kordofan state radio station, that has coverage of all the 17 localities, to engage community members in a daily contest on COVID-19 trivia.
- In South Darfur state, 8,600 information education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed reaching an estimated 13,000 people in Otash IDP camp, 9,000 refugees in Umdafoug and Al Radoum refugee camps. In Blue Nile, 11,000 IEC materials with Government, WHO and UNICEF approved approved COVID-19 messages were distributed in three localities.
- With the support of ECHO, OFDA and WFP, 98 bottles (500ml) of hand sanitisers, 80 lab coats, 550 pieces of facemasks and 2,810 sets of gloves were provided in health facilities and food distribution centres across Blue Nile and South Darfur for staff and volunteers.
- In partnership with the State Ministry of Health, 56 health workers in South Kordofan, 12 clinic staff plus 9 health committees in World Vision-run health facility in Al Radoum refugee camp (South Darfur), and 6 medical assistants in East Darfur, received orientation on COVID-19 IPC protocols.

Numbers at a glance



Gaps and needs

- There is an urgent and increased need for personal protective equipment (PPE) especially masks and gloves for World Vision frontline staff and volunteers.
- There is an increasing need for water storage facilities, hygiene supplies such as disinfectants, handwashing soap, handwashing facilities as well as hand sanitisers in the over 30 World Vision run health facilities and other operational sites.
- Additionally, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, there is an increasing need to support the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene services in public places across World Vision areas of operations.
- There is also an increased need for resources to support risk communication efforts such as developing and disseminating COVID-19 messages including conducting media campaigns to spread awareness.
- Funding is also required to enable World Vision to facilitate the Ministry of Health for COVID-19 surveillance activities, and equipping identified isolation centres with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- Training of healthcare personnel on COVID 19 IPC protocols.



Donors and Partners

World Vision continues to coordinate and collaborate closely with the Government of Sudan through the Ministry of Health and Partners to appropriately respond to COVID-19. We are also engaging our established community networks such as the national NGO partners, faith leaders, community committees, and media in awareness creation, promoting preventive measures and behaviour change. We are continuously monitoring the situation and engaging with the Government including the Humanitarian Aid Commission, in order to collectively address the emerging challenges.



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