

World Vision COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE Armenia

Situation overview

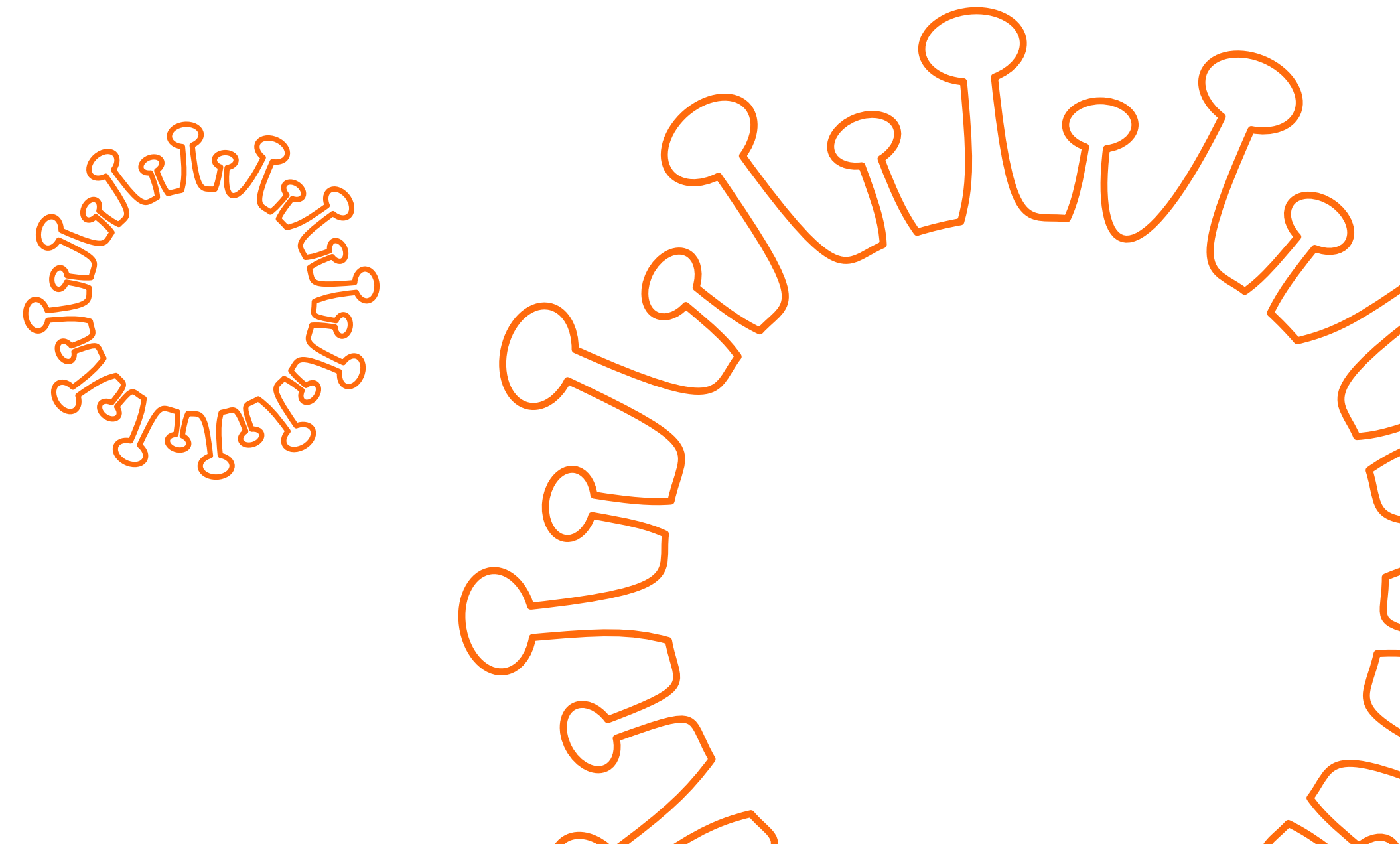
Armenia reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 1, 2020.

On March 16, 2020, Armenia declared a state of emergency, allowing the government to take steps to minimize risk of infection during the outbreak of COVID-19. Actions included closure of schools and universities, prohibition of public events, restrictions on movement within the country, screening and quarantine measures, and restriction of entry into Armenia.

The epidemiological situation has since drastically deteriorated in the country. Over the course of months, the number of COVID-19 infected people has multiplied. As of end of June 2020, Armenia has 8,796 confirmed cases per million population and 153 deaths per million population (fatality rate -1.7percent of total cases).

The situation in the country was especially difficult for extremely poor families and their children. The most vulnerable and directly impacted segments of population particularly the ones who have not been found eligible or received immaterial support from the Government funded COVID 19-response programmes e.g. socially and physically disadvantaged, unemployed, daily-paid workforce, seasonal workers returned from Russia, vulnerable families with no longer remittances from abroad, other vulnerability groups.

From the very first days of lockdown, World Vision was daily receiving dozens of requests from extremely poor families to help them with their daily bread. Request were coming through social media channels, phone calls, referrals from state and civil society partners.



Response goal

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and minimize its impact on lives of the vulnerable children and families across Armenia.

Response highlights

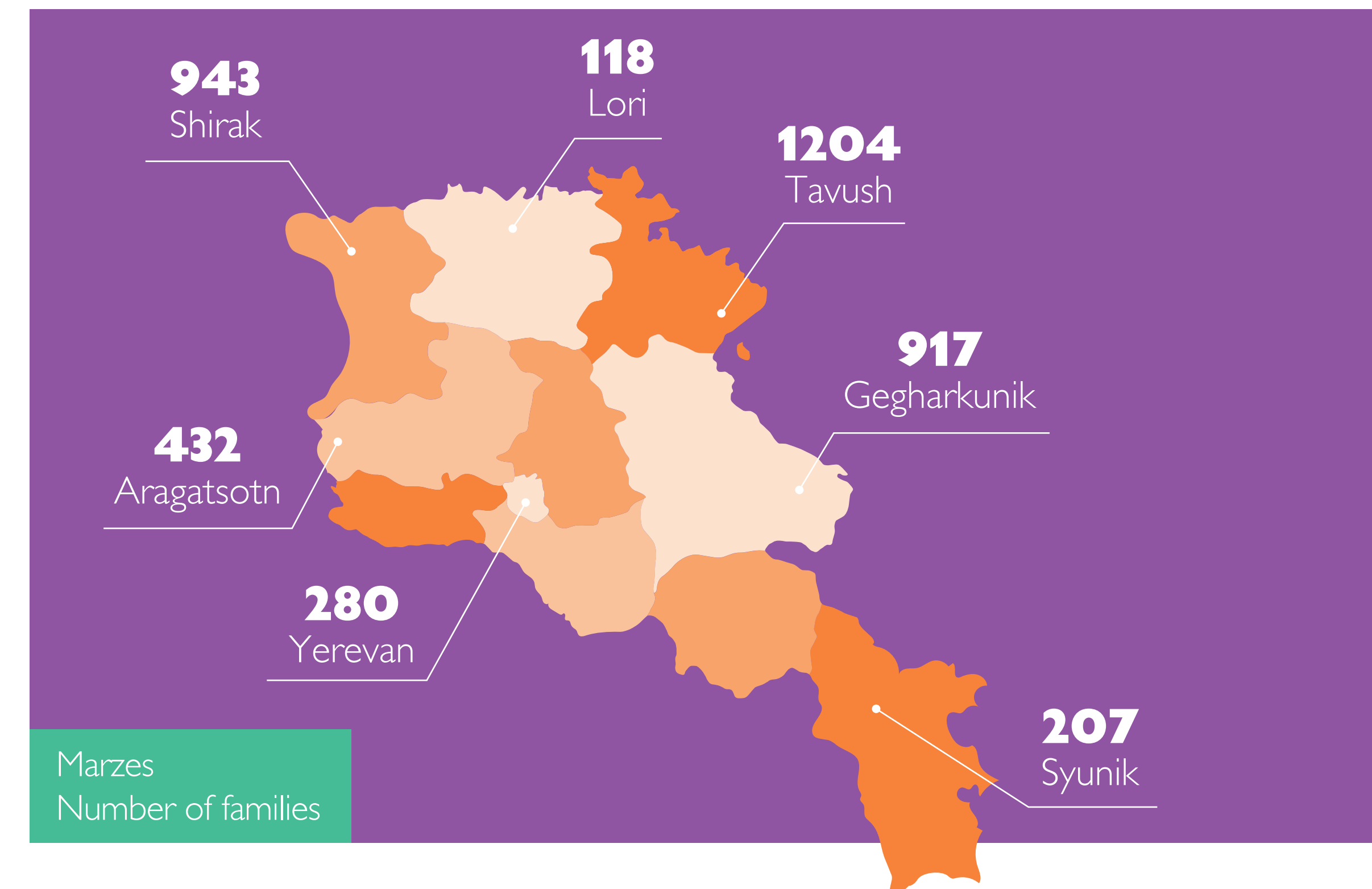
4101 households in Armenia received food and hygiene items from World Vision

World Vision Armenia commenced its immediate response to COVID-19 outbreak soon after the declaration of emergency state. Since March 2020, World Vision Armenia has supported more than 4101 families in six marzes and in the capital Yerevan. World Vision Armenia also provided technical equipment and internet connection to the most vulnerable families.

Funding for the response came with the grants from the European Union in Armenia and the Izmirlian Foundation, as well as from local corporates and hundreds of individual donors.

World Vision's humanitarian aid comprised food packages and hygiene items for an estimated two-week period designated for the most vulnerable families in the areas where the need was especially acute, beneficiaries included vulnerable and large families, lonely elderly, as well as people with disabilities.

“Before the emergency state, we were somehow providing for children’s food, as my husband was working on the fields and receiving payment per each day he worked. But during the restrictions, no one was able to go out to work, and we remained without daily income”, says Anoush Ghazaryan, 30. Anoush is a mother of two young children, and her family lives in one of the communities of bordering Noyemberyan area in Tavush Region of Armenia.



Supporting the improvement of COVID-19 patients' treatment in the regional healthcare units of Armenia

World Vision Armenia convenes online meetings with country's healthcare authorities and regional healthcare providers in response to their needs to receive first-hand instructions and guidance on COVID-19 prevention, testing and patients' treatment.

200 healthcare workers, including heads of medical facilities, family doctors and nurses of community ambulatories and hospitals in six marzes (regions) of Armenia have participated to the online discussions, raising a number of concerns related to the testing and treatment of COVID-19 patients in the regional healthcare facilities. They had the opportunity to address their questions and concerns to the officials of the Ministry of Healthcare of Armenia, the Health Inspectorate and the State Health Agency.

Coordinating partnership with governments and shaping future response actions

World Vision Armenia closely coordinated the distribution of food and hygiene packages with local governments and Yerevan Municipality on behalf of the community social workers and administrative units. The coordination included clarification of lists of the most vulnerable families as well as discussion around the composition of the packages. As a result, World Vision avoided duplication among beneficiaries as well as selection of those who needed the support the most.

In April 2020 the EU Delegation to Armenia contracted four local organisations – Armenian Red Cross, Society (ARCS), Children of Armenia Charitable Fund (COAF), World Vision Armenia and Save the Children Armenia to deliver emergency support to the most vulnerable groups. Local partners implementing the above-mentioned Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) projects within the scope of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility closely worked with local and regional authorities aiming to support in alleviating the negative socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable families. In the course of implementation, the local partners have identified a number of problems that require policy solutions. The identified issues referred to.

- the elderly,
- children and their families,
- school-age children,
- primary healthcare facilities,
- local and regional authorities.



A number of recommendations were consolidated and addressed to stakeholders including at community, regional and national level with an aim to achieve improvement and change.

Amplifying response to violence against children through partnership

In addition to serious health problems, isolation and closure of schools have led to child protection issues including risk of violence against children, exploitation, separation of families, unbearable living conditions and more.

As part of 'Share Love, not Violence' public campaign which brings together dozens of local and international organizations to combat violence against children, World Vision also promptly responded to Covid-19 emergency situation through messages, discussions, information campaigns and advocacy calls to prevent domestic violence against children and to ease tensions that may arise at home.

Rapid impact assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak to reveal acute needs within programme families

World Vision Armenia conducted rapid impact assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak on wellbeing of children and families in Armenia.

The assessment aimed at revealing the main problems the families faced because of pandemic, particularly the problems connected with meeting basic needs of the families, organization of educational process during pandemic period, relationships, etc. in order to develop the most appropriate response.

We asked help for those in need

World Vision Armenia launched a new donation campaign as the situation related to the spread of COVID-19 was drastically affecting the lives of the children and families living in extreme poverty. World Vision Armenia has selected those extremely poor families where the need was especially severe. Thanks to online and in kind donations World Vision purchased food and hygiene packages for up to 2 weeks. The package included dry food and essential hygiene items. World Vision also established 'Kind baskets' in the big supermarkets in the capital Yerevan where people donated food and World Vision distributed the collected food to its beneficiaries. Thanks to the donations of individuals and local businesses, World Vision Armenia was able to raise


USD\$ 41,954 since the start of donation campaign.



 US\$ **41,954**
was raised through
local fundraising

 **161**
kindergartens receiving
sanitary items

 **4101**
families receiving
hygiene and food kits


 **720**
health and social workers
trained and supported

 **9356**
children benefiting
from food assistance

 **200**
health facilities
receiving assistance

 **792**
children supported with
Internet connection

 **2000**
children supported with services
of World Vision professionals

 **61**
health facilities receiving
protective and medical items

 **160**
community workers trained
on COVID-19 prevention

 **1361**
people donated to
World Vision Armenia

Proud of partnership

We thank our generous donors, partners, and supporters

- Workfront Armenia
- Synergy Armenia
- ANI Product
- Radio Van
- Yerevan City Supermarkets
- PARMA Supermarkets
- Homeland Development Initiative Foundation
- VMware Armenia
- SMARTOLOGY Digital Business Academy
- Art Lunch



European Union in Armenia



Izmirlian Foundation