

A Global Response to a Global Pandemic

The world is facing an unprecedented global pandemic. As key players race to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Global Emergency Response Coalition – an alliance of the world's leading emergency response agencies – and its team of over 87,000 staff are working around the clock to help the world's most vulnerable communities.

Our member NGOs are integrating COVID-19 preparedness into existing programs

Coalition members are also working to ensure that all programs are ready to respond, particularly in countries and contexts most vulnerable to the pandemic, like those already enduring ongoing emergencies, refugee crises, violence and conflicts. Coalition members are also working with the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as national and local governments and communities to slow down the rate of transmission and to limit the impacts of the pandemic on children and their families.

Our members are actively responding in outbreak hotspots like China, Italy, South Korea, and the United States, but we anticipate that all 120 countries in which Coalition members work will experience pandemic waves over the next 12-18 months. Programs are currently being redesigned to include activities to accommodate the unique demands of COVID response. Programs include but are not limited to activities within Health, Education, Child Protection, and Food Security and Livelihoods in all countries in which Coalition members work.

Many teams are increasing the delivery of soap and sanitation services, including hand-washing facilities and clean water, especially to people in higher-risk areas. In addition, on the ground community engagement is a strong component in helping people minimize the risk of infection by providing people with accurate information and advice about the virus in local languages.

Our members are developing response plans in each of their current program countries, adapting existing programs to prevent transmission and respond to COVID-19 cases across development and relief programming.

Plan International is starting up immediate response programming in a growing cohort of countries. Initial response activities include provision of medical supplies and WASH commodities, awareness raising (including via social media channels), and hygiene promotion.

For the first time in the organization's history, World Vision has declared a Global Health Emergency for COVID-19. Seventeen countries have been identified initially as priorities, looking at factors including:

- Viral cluster transmission
- Ongoing humanitarian response
- High mortality, weak health system
- High population density
- Proximity to epicenter of epidemic

Ongoing activities include training health workers on infection, prevention and control; as well as safe and proper use of personal protective equipment; pre-positioning supplies, especially PPE for the 1,200+ health facilities supported by World Vision; and surveillance, case management and contact tracing.



Coalition members have partnerships with local, regional, and national governments as well as the WHO, UN actors and with each other.

Global and national health teams are participating in daily conversations with the WHO, the UN-mandated Cluster Coordination mechanisms, and other COVID-19 coordination bodies to build response scenarios and undertake preparedness activities across many of the Coalition members' country offices, especially those with weakened health systems. Coalition members work with UN agencies to support governments on their planning and response to COVID-19 in addition to broad coordination mechanisms to increase access to vital COVID-19 treatment equipment including oxygen and pulse oximeters.

The bottom line is that we are prepared to respond to this pandemic – this is what we do and have been doing for decades. Member NGO staff are working around the clock taking steps to reduce the impact that COVID-19 will have in countries with weaker health systems when it arrives at their door. Now more than ever, we must come together and support our fellow global citizens and the organizations that are working to save lives. Together we can help mitigate the impact of global problems like COVID-19 and beyond.

In support of the global humanitarian community, Save the Children is leading a global consortium called READY aimed at strengthening capacity for responses to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics. READY is building potential response scenarios to COVID-19 and other major epidemics/pandemic-prone pathogens.

At regional levels, Save the Children, Oxfam, World Vision, International Rescue Committee, and Plan International are promoting a community engagement and community mitigation approach to early actions and prevention of COVID-19.

Our member NGOs are responding in over 90 countries *(and the list is growing)*

- Afghanistan
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- China
- Colombia
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- DRC
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Libya
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Palestine (West Bank/Gaza)
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Serbia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Thailand
- Tanzania
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- U.S.
- U.K.
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

