



WAR CHILD: COVID-19 PROGRAMME RESPONSE

War Child is working to meet the urgent needs of children and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have developed a programme response to support the most vulnerable children, families and communities where we work. We are already working to ensure their basic needs are met - and their safety and dignity maintained.

Together we aim to see that no child is left behind.

Our immediate response

Our immediate response to the threat of COVID-19 sees us take two primary approaches. The first is **awareness-raising** to share reliable and scientific information to protect children and families against infection and uphold their social and emotional wellbeing. Messages are being shared through radio and social media - and displayed on posters in the heart of remote communities - to promote hygiene best practice.

In our second approach we use our global network to support partner organisations and communities to maintain the **supply of life-sustaining resources** inside our countries of operation - including water, food and hygiene. We are also working with these partners to support community members to earn livelihoods - of which many opportunities have been drastically reduced due to quarantine measures and travel restrictions.

In addition to these two primary approaches, War Child and partner organisations are adapting key activities to be delivered remotely - including the case management of vulnerable children in our care and basic mental health support.

Our medium-term response

We are also developing contingency plans to shape our response to the pandemic in the weeks and months to come. In line with our stated mission we will continue to provide - through remote modalities - **protection, education and psychosocial support** to vulnerable children and families living in isolation.

Can't Wait to Learn - the innovative e-learning programme driven by War Child Holland and coalition partners - is making technical adaptations to the delivery of the programme to ensure children receive and (continue to) get access to quality primary-level education.

Other interventions will be adapted to meet specific needs arising from the pandemic. We will work to maintain our **child protection activities** as far as possible, helping to ensure children's rights are not violated. This includes protection from gender-based violence and child labour.

We will also prioritise our advocacy efforts, which include support in developing national policy and promoting the additional support for mental health as a core element of international humanitarian assistance - both now and in the long-term.