

Children's experiences during COVID-19

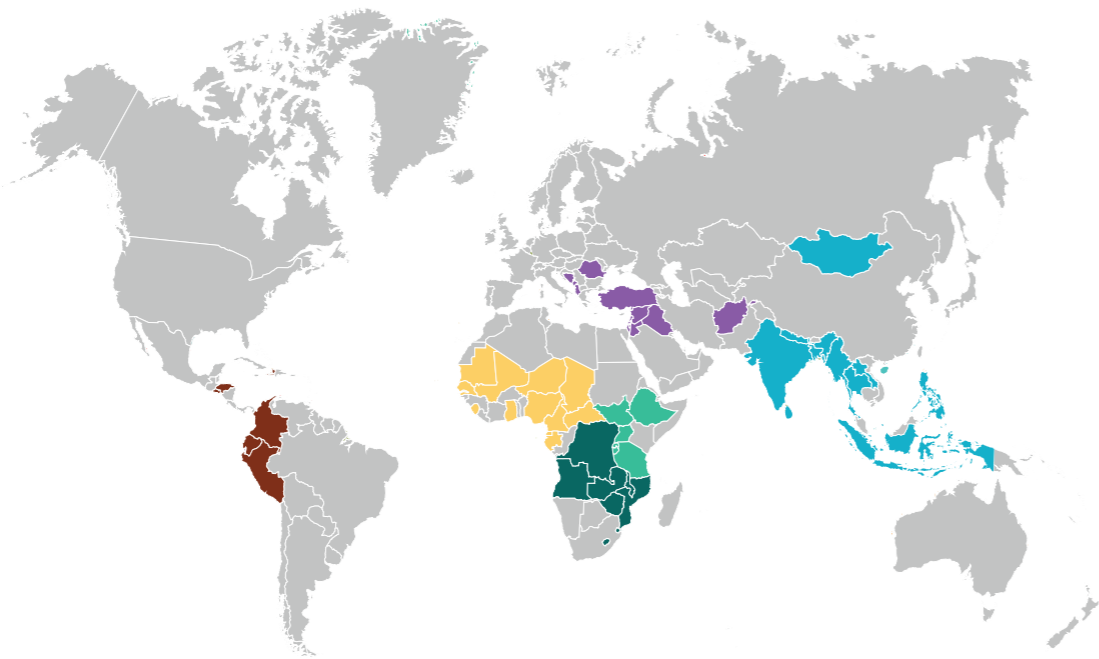
Between April – August 2020, World Vision spoke to 763 children and young people in six regions between the ages of 7 to 19 years old.

World Vision

For the full report, please visit: wvi.org/act-now

81%

of children and young people talked about **violence in their homes, communities and online** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



CHILDREN ARE BEING MARRIED OFF SOONER, ESPECIALLY IN ASIA PACIFIC AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

My parents forced my sister to marry an old man because we are 13 girls and boys at home and my parents did not have the means to feed us all. (Girl, 16, Syria)

DISRUPTION OF EDUCATION

82%

children and young people said COVID-19 has had an impact on their education.



MORE CHILDREN ARE BEING FORCED TO WORK

Many of my friends are working to help out their parents. In our town, we can work at vegetable growing fields and chicken farms. **I work at the vegetable greenhouses and growing fields. We work eight hours a day.** (Tsend-Ayush, 14, male, Mongolia)

MISSED SOCIAL LIVES

67%

children and young people said that the pandemic affected their ability to interact with friends.



EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE INTERNET CONTENT

47%

of participants said they or someone they knew had faced one or more online risks since the start of the pandemic.

65% of respondents in Sierra Leone reported that they, or someone they knew, had seen inappropriate sexual content online.

One of my friends . . . [was] asked to [snap a] naked [picture of] herself and send [it] to him. Because she did not do [what he asked], he . . . sent her a nude video of himself. **Because she blocked [him] . . . he [wrote] bad things about her on Facebook and photoshopped her picture on a nude form.** (Jessica, 16, female, Sierra Leone)

87%

of children and young people said that they were following one or more preventative measures to **stop the spread of COVID-19.**



Every child should contribute to the fight against COVID-19 by staying at home, following the rules, wearing face masks, washing [their] hands and keeping physical distance in order to prevent the spread of the virus. (Boy, 14, Georgia)



Children and young people are organised in groups. **They collect protective materials, such as handwashing materials, hand soaps, sanitisers and masks from the community and organisations.** They put handwashing pans and soap on the main streets and people-crowded areas. (Binyam, 14, male, Ethiopia)



[We're] spreading awareness about COVID-19 to those who live on the streets and the migrant workers, about how to stay safe by following all the safety measures – [e.g.] washing hands with soap, wearing masks, maintaining social distance. [We] reached out to them with messages on posters and provided food to them as well. (Karishma, 17, female, India)

How children are fighting COVID-19:



- following the rules
- raising awareness
- helping with distributions
- supporting community members
- improving local sanitation by building "tippy taps" and "Veronica buckets"

INCREASED VIOLENCE AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY



My father beats me harshly with a stick. I do not have a good relationship with him, and I got used to being beaten every day. (Girl, 13, Afghanistan)



I heard that several girls were raped during the time of the confinement. Even in my neighbourhood, a girl was raped and is now pregnant. If there were no confinement and no COVID-19, she would have been in school, [and] she wouldn't be pregnant today. (Flore, 15, female, Haiti)



For some children, insecurity pre-dates COVID-19. Children and young people from Syria expressed fears of air strikes, bullets and bombs.

Six messages children and young people have for leaders



1) PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE

Make, or ensure functioning of, all child-related helplines because currently children's helplines do not function well. (Ameet, 16, male, Bangladesh)



2) INVOLVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING

Our government needs to listen more to children. No one asked us what it was like to be locked in houses for so long. (Girl, 14, Bosnia and Herzegovina)



3) FIGHT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

We need more information on how to prevent and protect from COVID-19 in villages and communities. [The] government should provide materials to prevent and protect from COVID-19, like masks, soaps and alcohol hand gels for children and people living in communities. (Miss Soud, 13, female, Laos)



4) SUPPORT EDUCATION

I would ask the president to improve the education . . . I would ask him to help many children in the rural areas who do not have Internet, radio or TV. (Zelma, 16, female, Peru)



5) HELP FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The economic crisis in Lebanon is affecting the lives of children. Our families cannot meet our nutritional needs anymore. Everything is very expensive. I want the president to regulate the price of food so we can survive this bad time. (Boy, 14, Lebanon)



6) ASSIST MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

During this pandemic period, I want the government to better protect children with disabilities, like me. Make sure other children and I are not discriminated against. (Charles, 16, male, Indonesia)