

COVID-19 Aftershocks: Out of Time to End Poverty and Inequalities in Africa by 2030

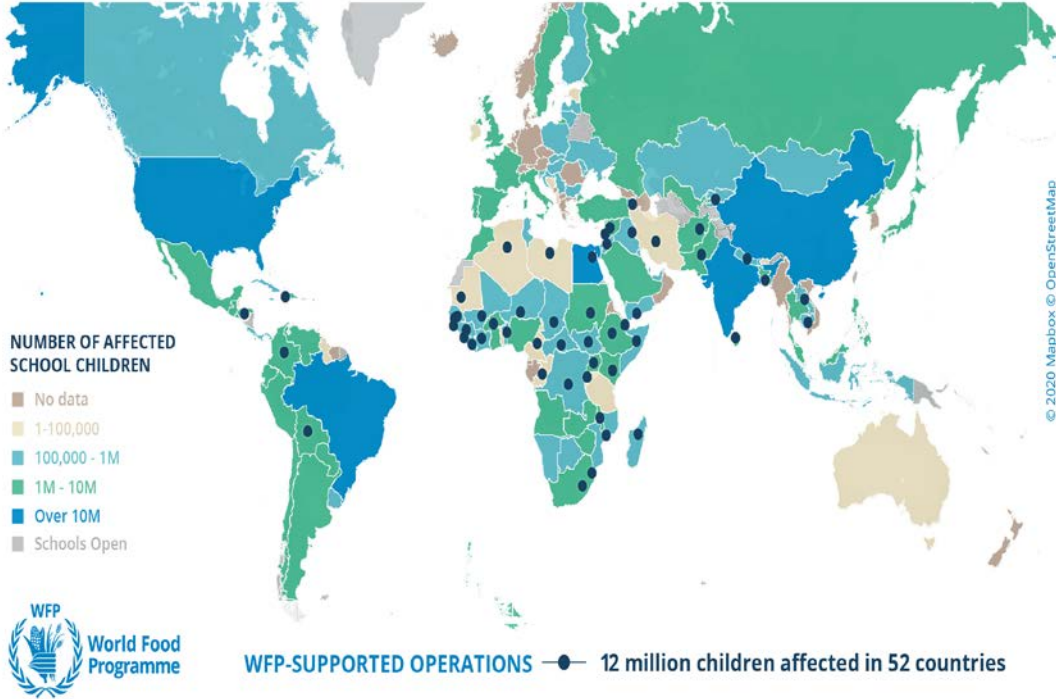


368 million

Children missing out on meals at school globally (48% are girls)

195

Countries with school closures







See: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm>





FEARS –REPEAT OF HISTORY

-  Girls are at risk of child marriage due to poverty
-  Selling Off of Household Assets to make ends meet
-  Increased School Drop Outs as income reduce
-  Increased rates of malnutrition as families cant afford nutritious meals

COVID-19, Poverty & Hunger



Over 2,400 small business owners surveyed in 8 African countries:

69% reporting that they are earning less than half of pre-COVID-19 income with majority forced to spend less on buying healthy food

VisionFund clients in Africa describe the economic effects of COVID-19*

92% face reduced incomes



Clients share that the main challenges driving this are

- Decreased demand for products and services (52%)
- Their customers' reduced income (36%)



Clients report a reduced capacity to repay loans due to businesses not running fully (62%) and lack of income (33%)



*Survey of 2,481 clients 29 April - 9 May 2020 by VisionFund MFIs in DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia. Questions could have multiple answers per client.

COVID-19 & Savings Groups

Savings Group members in refugee/host settlements in West Nile, Uganda Income and Savings in COVID-19

Income has declined

47% savings group members face a big reduction in income, and an additional 11% of members have no income

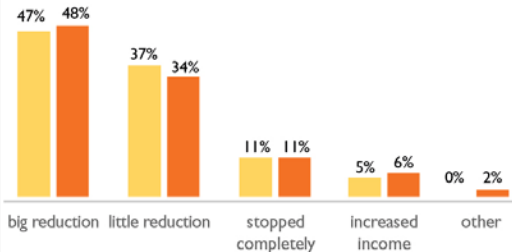
Staple food prices are rising

88% are facing increased staple food prices, with 48% encountering increases between 70-100%

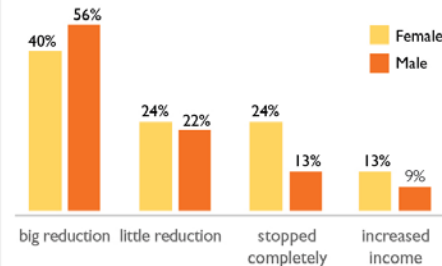
Assets are being sold

10% of savings group members (12% men, 8% women) said they had already sold off assets

Income change by gender



Savings change by gender



Increased use of social funds

42% of savings group members said the demand on the social fund had increased, and of these respondents, 57% said the increase was in the range of 76% to 100%

Savings are reducing

47% of savings group members are still saving though less, while 23% have stopped saving

S4T Groups Buffer Economic Effects of Ebola (Sierra Leone)

Destiny Savings Group in formed during Ebola

302 S4T groups (10,546 members with 6,373 females) established through a combination of targeted cash transfers and financial literacy training

In Sierra Leone, 42,000 small traders— almost 80% of whom were women – kickstart their businesses by providing small loans and grants

81.3% of beneficiaries used funds to pay school fees & 60% used the funds for medical expenses

SCALING UP WHAT WORKS

■ Savings Groups

- Local safety net for those in hard to reach places
- Pooling resources to fund livelihoods opportunities
- Adolescent Savings Groups for child protection

■ Microfinance

- Small loans to finance livelihoods opportunities
- Extend repayment periods to boost livelihoods

■ Cash & Voucher Assistance (S4T/UPG/BSL)

- To meet the immediate household needs and reduce risk of negative coping mechanisms
- Reduce risk to sell off livelihoods assets
- Integrating skills training and livelihoods opportunities to lift families out of poverty
- Support with agricultural inputs to boost agricultural productivity

Recommendations

World Vision calls on governments, UN agencies, donors, NGOs, and the private sector to act together to:

- 1. Urgently scale up child sensitive social protection interventions that are child sensitive, gender responsive and accountable**
- 2. Protect jobs, wages and livelihoods of the poorest to guarantee households have income**
- 3. Invest in interventions promoting a green recovery**



Ending Child Poverty Reducing Inequalities

VisionFund

World Vision



Angeline Munzara

*Senior Advisor, Livelihoods
External Engagement and Savings
for Transformation Lead*

World Vision

[Email: Angeline_Munzara@wvi.org](mailto:Angeline_Munzara@wvi.org)

Twitter: @Amunzara

[Linked In: https://www.linkedin.com/in/angeline-munzara-chawira-300b9b29/detail/recent-activity/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/angeline-munzara-chawira-300b9b29/detail/recent-activity/)