KEY MESSAGES

As a global girls’ rights and humanitarian organization, Plan International’s experience indicates that girls and young women are particularly vulnerable in health emergencies. We call on governments to include meaningful participation of girls and women in its decision-making processes related to the COVID-19 response and recognize that outbreaks, quarantines and isolation affect girls and boys, women and men differently.

We believe that sex and age-appropriate interventions that address increased risk of child marriage, sexual violence, sexual reproductive health and rights, mental health and burden of domestic work facing girls and women are particularly essential and we call on all countries who provide foreign assistance to increase funding in light of COVID-19, including intensifying support and preventive measures in refugee and displacement settings.

### Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths as of 16 April 2020 (WHO, Sitrep #87)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Total Confirmed</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>83797</td>
<td>3352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>12380</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>5136</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos PDR</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>5453</td>
<td>349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>10613</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands *</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2672</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No data for Solomon Islands on WHO SitReps

### COOPERATION SPOTLIGHT!

**Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh**

Plan International Bangladesh, along with 25 other major aid groups, issued a statement calling on the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to restore full access to mobile data and telecommunications to ensure that refugees, displaced populations and host communities can access life-saving information about COVID-19. Joint appeal available [here](https://www.plan.org/coronavirus-pandemic/

**Diary of a Rohingya girl on lockdown, captured by a Rohingya volunteer**

“We live in a very dense area and the lockdown makes the situation a lot more intense. I do not know how I can maintain social distancing. I learn about personal hygiene but we don’t have enough soap or masks either.”

Kawsara, 15, Rohingya Displacement Camp

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17th April 2020, Issue 2
**BANGLADESH**
- Developing science and ICT lessons to be broadcast on a government channel as part of the government’s integrated education continuity plan.
- Signed a joint statement calling for a full restoration of mobile data to save lives at camps and a joint appeal through Joining Forces Alliance to protect the children during outbreak.
- Supplied 400 PPE sets to health service providers in programme areas.
- Developed a story book for children on awareness and preventative measures.

**INDONESIA**
- Working with Ministry of Social Affairs to promote protection mechanism for unaccompanied minors and separated children.
- Distributed 11,050 hygiene kits and 8,187 posters on preventative actions in in East Nusa Tenggara Province.
- Developing an offline learning module for students in remote areas.
- Using social media to disseminate youth-friendly messages on awareness and prevention.

**MYANMAR**
- Finalising a virtual adolescent-led education and protection campaign to offer protection support for girls and young women living in 24 IDP camps and 24 host communities, as well as in 220 villages.
- Distributed hygiene equipment in recently displaced IDP camps in Rakhine, reaching 981 households.
- Distributed information, education and communication materials to 14,905 households.
- Begun cash distribution to affected sponsorship families; 425 households reached so far.
- Distributed urgent medical materials to government health facilities in programme areas.
- Developed educational messages in sign-language for visually impaired persons.
- Finalizing an agreement with the Government to implement a response programme.

**NEPAL**
- Signed a joint statement calling on national and local governments to increase protection measures for children and eliminate violence against children during the pandemic.
- Provide weekly inputs to the House Committee on the Welfare of Children on possible gaps, issues deficiencies, recommendations and other concerns in the implementation of the Bayanihan Act.
- Train young populations on journalism and media production to produce youth-friendly public service announcements about the outbreak and mental health.

**PHILIPPINES**
- Distributed hygiene kits to 884 families including 58,474 masks, 956 antibacterial soaps, 84 bottles of multipurpose cleansers, 1,177 bottles of hand sanitizers and 950 antiviral leaflets.

**CHINA**
- Distributed 189K Euro worth of disinfectant and personal protective equipment to government institutions and local NGOs.
- Building NGOs/Staff capacity for children’s psychological support and referral system. Working with Child Help Line to develop services for child protection and online services/counselling.
- Reached 280,000 people through the dissemination of preventive messages.
- Enable partners to conduct a gender, disability and inclusion analysis together with the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.

**FIJI**
- Distributed hygiene kits to 884 families including 58,474 masks, 956 antibacterial soaps, 84 bottles of multipurpose cleansers, 1,177 bottles of hand sanitizers and 950 antiviral leaflets.
- Work with para-legal volunteers to discuss issues related to child marriage during social isolation with the communities.
- Produced short videos of girl change makers to increase awareness of the experiences girls have while navigating COVID-19 which reached over 100,000 people in country.

**ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED**

**CAMBODIA**
- Building NGOs/Staff capacity for children’s psychological support and referral system. Working with Child Help Line to develop services for child protection and online services/counselling.
- Reached 280,000 people through the dissemination of preventive messages.

**HONG KONG**
- Distributed hygiene kits to 884 families including 58,474 masks, 956 antibacterial soaps, 84 bottles of multipurpose cleansers, 1,177 bottles of hand sanitizers and 950 antiviral leaflets.
LAOS

- Coordinating with government’s national COVID-19 Task Force to procure 100,000 surgical face masks for health workers.
- Working with government to produce radio spots to broadcast preventive messages.
- Procuring hygiene kits for teachers and students while developing an adolescent girl support program to support girls to re-enroll when schools are re-opened.
- Partnered with the District Education and Sports Bureau in Oudomxay to provide materials to support quarantine centers.
- Installed 27 handwashing stations in remote programme areas with a potential reach of 135,000.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- Distributed 20,500 face masks, 665 bottles of hand sanitizer and 500 emergency food kits to support some of the most vulnerable children in Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province.
- Providing materials to support girls to re-enroll when schools are re-opened.
- Installed 27 handwashing stations in remote programme areas with a potential reach of 135,000.

THAILAND

- Collaborating with the Office of Basic Education and Safe School Network to produce home learning materials and train teachers virtually.
- Using social media to disseminate youth-friendly messages on awareness and prevention.

VIETNAM

- Communication activities on prevention of Covid-19 and promoting hygiene exercises have been continuously carried out.
- Using social media to disseminate youth-friendly messages on awareness and prevention.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Liasing with ChildFund to operate national gender-based violence helpline to access counseling and referral services for women and girls in Bougainville.
- Distributing over 9,000 approved IEC materials throughout Central and Northern Bougainville.
- Distributing over 6,000 IEC materials to frontline healthcare workers through the Department of Health.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Deployed 5 Women WASH implementing teams to programme areas to raise awareness about preventive measures and distribute approved IEC materials.

TIMOR-LESTE

- Working closely with the Ministry of Health to deliver preventive messages in sponsorship areas, reaching over 3,000 children.
- Installed 12 public water tanks and produced and distributed hygiene promotion materials.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Released advocacy messages and briefing materials developed with Girls Not Brides on COVID-19 and child marriage.
- Co-hosting a South Asia webinar on child marriage and COVID-19 with UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Coordinating with Child Helpline International on providing advice, outreach and referral services for children and young people.
- Working with the Gender in Humanitarian Action Regional Network to update gender-related advocacy messaging.

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