

Child Protection

Background

Violence against childrenⁱ remains a critical concern for all girls and boys (especially the most vulnerable) everywhere that World Vision works. Children who experience violence are often left with long-lasting negative social, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual consequences. Over 1 billion children suffer violence every yearⁱⁱ costing the world US\$7 trillion, far more than the cost of preventing violence.ⁱⁱⁱ Emergencies or fragile and conflict contexts exacerbate child protection concerns and create new challenges for children to face.^{iv}

The Facts

- Every year, 1.7 billion children are estimated to experience some form of inter-personal violence – that is nearly three out of four children around the world. ^v In 2015, this figure includes:
 - 1.3 billion boys and girls who experienced corporal punishment at home
 - 261 million school children who experienced peer violence
 - 100,000 children who are victims of homicide
- Up to 36% (about 2 in 5) of girls and 29% (about 1 in 3) of boys have suffered child sexual abuse.^{vi}
- In a ten year period, more than 2 million children died in armed conflict, and 6 million were seriously injured or permanently disabled. Over 1 billion children live in countries or territories affected by armed conflict.^{vii}
- There are over 168 million child labourers age 5-17 worldwide, 85 million of whom are involved in hazardous working conditions.^{viii}
- More than 125 million girls and women 15-49 years old have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting in 28 countries.^{ix}
- Each year, 15 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 — that’s one girl every two seconds.^x One-in-seven girls in the developing world is made to marry before her fifteenth birthday.^{xi}

Approach

World Vision uses a **systems approach** to address root causes of violence against girls and boys, by empowering key actors to work together to create a protective environment that cares for and supports all children, especially the most vulnerable. Interventions focus on improving laws and accountability, increasing social services and support, behaviour change, and child resilience. In fragile and emergency contexts, we align with Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

We work with key actors at all levels of the ecological model of the child to:



- **EMPOWER GIRLS and BOYS** through positive youth development, lifeskills, and asset building to be resilient influential protection actors in their environment
- **STRENGTHEN FAMILIES** through parenting supports and services so that families remain together and respect, nurture and protect all girls and boys
- **PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES** through sustained dialogue and collective action to promote positive norms, protective behavior and protective mechanisms
- **CATALYSE FAITH COMMUNITIES** through mobilisation and capacity building to be safe for boys and girls, and transform social norms that cause harm to them
- **INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS** through social accountability at all levels to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of girls and boys

In all our operational areas, we strive to target the **most vulnerable boys and girls** using a variety of methods to identify, listen to, and programme for the most vulnerable. Our sampling guidance for design, monitoring, and evaluation (DME), landscape assessment tools, and local community mapping activities all serve to help local and National Office staff reach children who are adversely affected or particularly vulnerable.

Programming Models

Our programming approaches combine globally proven sectoral or multi-sectoral practices and are articulated in replicable and scalable packages – project models that can be adapted and used in different contexts. World Vision uses project models as a mechanism for mainstreaming proven practices, while allowing scope for customisation by communities to reflect local realities.

The key project models supporting strengthened protection of children include, but are not limited to:

- **Child Protection and Advocacy (CP&A)** – our core project model that lays the foundation for community partnerships to strengthen the child protection system (both formal and informal elements) at the community level, which focuses on participatory analysis, planning, and action for change. This is an overarching, “umbrella” model with menus of enabling core models and approaches organised under specific “domains of change” that programming areas can customize based on the root causes of particular violence issues in their communities:

Domain 1: Building children’s resilience, life skills, and voice:

- **Peace Road:** a comprehensive life skills program to help adolescents protect themselves, treat others with respect, and collectively act to improve their communities.
- **IMPACT+:** a children and young people’s club project model that integrates a life skills approach to adolescent engagement and addresses key sectoral issues facing adolescents in a holistic way (covering child protection, education, health and livelihoods). The goal of this model is that adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, transition well into adulthood as active citizens empowered with competencies, values, confidence and social connectedness.
- **Child-led Approaches to End Violence against Children:** Short 10-session curriculum for engaging young people in child-led research, child-led mobilisation, and child-led social accountability.

Domain 2: Attitude and Behaviour Change

- **Positive Discipline:** Encouraging parents and other adults (like teachers and care providers) to treat children with respect, rather than as subdued passive recipients of orders. The

- suggested curricula helps adults gain a better understanding about children’s social-emotional development and consequences of physical/corporal punishment.
- **Celebrating Families:** an approach that empowers families so that they will enjoy positive and loving relationships and are able to plan and work together towards achieving their hope and vision for the future. Celebrating Families is also a principal resource in creating a safe and nurturing environment for children’s spiritual nurture.
 - **Channels of Hope for Child Protection:** a model that partners with, strengthens, and empowers faith leaders and faith communities to address child protection issues. It equips faith leaders with both factually-correct information and insight into their scriptures and faith traditions, guiding them to become powerful change agents.
 - **Community Change:** an expanded community conversations framework to transform attitudes and mobilize action on harmful traditional practices and gender discrimination/violence.

Domain 3: Strengthening Child Protection Services and Support Mechanisms

- **Reporting and Referral Mechanisms:** a methodology to ensure ways for community members (including children) to report child protection violations and ensure adequate referral and access to required help. This model strengthens connections between informal and formal reporting mechanisms.
- **Home Visiting:** a platform for community volunteers (serving as home visitors) to develop supportive relationships with most vulnerable children and their families.
- **CP&A Groups:** an approach that brings together formal and informal child protection actors in a local community to strengthen the overall child protection system together for the most vulnerable children. The CP&A Group is the main coordinating mechanism of child protection initiatives and action plans in the local community.

Domain 4: Improve Laws and Accountability

- **Citizen, Voice, and Action for Child Protection:** an approach to social accountability that empowers adults and children to monitor the performance of local governments in providing essential child protection services at the local level. It teaches communities to learn what their rights are, how to analyse gaps in services, prioritize changes they want to see, and dialogue/take action together with local government and service providers.

Grant Experience

Between the years of 2014-2018 World Vision implemented more than **230 child protection grants** in countries across Africa, Asia, and parts of Eastern Europe and Latin America, including fragile contexts such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Lebanon, and South Sudan. World Vision also has a variety of projects where child protection is integrated into other sector programming such as education, health, emergency response, social accountability, WASH, and livelihoods/economic development. In this time, the total amount of grants won where child protection was either a primary or secondary sector was more than **\$142 Million USD**.

Our major donors include DFAT, Austrian Development Agency, DFID, European Commission, the European Union, Global Fund, Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, USAID, US Department of Labor, US Department of State, World Food Programme, and others.

Recent Projects

In **Asia**, the AUSAID NGO Cooperation Program contributed \$7.5 million to the \$14 million End Trafficking in Persons (ETIP) Victim Protection Project. The overall goal of the programme was to contribute to the mitigation of the human trafficking problem in this region by a) protecting more people from the threat of trafficking; b) ensuring that survivors are provided with appropriate protection services leading to integration back into society; and c) advocating for government policies to provide greater protection to the victims and the vulnerable. The 2016 end-of-project evaluation results included:

- 118 Child Protection & Advocacy groups established or supported through the programme to strengthen community protections systems and ensure that communities are safe from trafficking, with 68% of those groups considered effective and functioning at the end of the programme
- 12,306 young people attended the 206 children and youth clubs set up by ETIP and increased their knowledge about human trafficking and how to migrate safely for work, with a notable increases in youth's safe migration practices prior to and during migration for work purposes
- 421 survivors of human trafficking were provided with reintegration assistance through the ETIP programme receiving a holistic set of services including housing and accommodation, medical attention, psychological/emotional services, education and training, economic services, legal help, security, and family and community services
- 17 bi-lateral and national policies, laws, and action plans on human trafficking and child protection were influenced by ETIP recommendations and evidence, often in partnership with other organisations. Additionally a number of spaces were created throughout the programme to enable children/youth and survivors to engage in meaningful dialogue with the government about the issues surrounding human trafficking.

Across **13 countries in Africa, Asia and parts of Eastern Europe** World Vision's DFID funded Partnership Programme Arrangement portfolio (2011-2014) takes a common systemic approach for the increased protection of vulnerable children. The Programme has consistent outcome themes and indicators, but interventions are contextualised to the specific needs of each target area based on participatory child protection systems mapping and in-depth analyses. Highlights include:

- 147 communities across 11 countries were supported to respond adequately to violations of child protection rights in coordination with local justice mechanisms
- 270 community-based groups were supported to identify and monitor the most vulnerable children and their households, provide family-based care and support, and make referrals to formal protective and restorative care mechanisms where appropriate
- Over 18,000 children were equipped with essential life-skills to reduce their vulnerability to harm through child rights training groups and by supporting children's safe and active participation in initiatives for child protection
- Eight national child protection and child health policy and practice changes were promoted
- 190 communities across 9 countries have developed and initiated new strategies to reduce harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, FGM/C and other forms of violence against the most vulnerable children at local level

In **Philippines** the \$19 million US Department of Labor-funded ABK3 Livelihoods, Education, and Advocacy & Child Protection (ABK3 LEAP) programme combated child labour in the sugarcane industry between the years of 2011-2016. Among the project's 54,479 child beneficiaries, there was an 86 percent reduction in those who were participating in hazardous child labour connected to the sugarcane industry. Other programme highlights include:

- Over 30,300 households received livelihood services, of which 55% have sustained income greater than 6 months

- 97% of provinces, municipalities, and barangays covered by the project have passed new policies and funded programs to reduce child labour
- 73 sugar industry institutions or associations adopted policies and annual programs to reduce child labour
- 23 municipalities have implemented functional child labour monitoring systems
- Teachers from 237 schools were trained on strategies to meet the needs of child laborers and struggling learners
- 69% of 148 targeted communities adopted child labour ordinances that protect children from engaging in hazardous child labour

Expertise and Capacity within World Vision

World Vision is recognized as a global thought leader and partner of choice in child protection programming and humanitarian response. We actively participate in and often lead workstreams in several global platforms such as the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Interagency Learning Initiative (ILI) on Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms and Systems, and the Joining Forces Initiative, which brings together the six major child-focused agencies to address violence against children and further child-led initiatives.

In 2018, World Vision catalyzed and co-led the Faith Action for Children on the Move Partners forum, which brought together nearly 200 faith leaders and faith-based organizations to address violence against children on the move. On a yearly basis, we also prioritize several global forums such as ISPCAN (International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect), Girls Not Brides, and Women Deliver in order to share emerging learning, evidence and research.

ⁱ All forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

ⁱⁱ Hillis, S., Mercy, J., Amobi, A. and Kress, H. (2016). Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates. *Pediatrics*, January, 2016.

ⁱⁱⁱ Perezniето, P., Montes, A., Langston, L., and Routier, S. (2014). *The Costs and economic impact of violence against children*. London. ODI.

^{iv} Child ProtectionWG (2015) A Matter of Life and Death, <http://cpwg.net/resources/matter-life-death/>

^v Know Violence in Childhood (2017). *Ending Violence in Childhood. Global Report 2017*. Know Violence in Childhood. New Delhi, India.

^{vi} UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/>

^{vii} UN: http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/MachelStudy-10YearStrategicReview_en.pdf

^{viii} ILO: <http://www.ilo.org/ipcc/lang--en/index.htm#a1>

^{ix} UNICEF: http://www.childinfo.org/files/FGMC_Low_Sept2013.pdf

^x <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/>

^{xi} Girls Not Brides: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/what-is-the-impact>