



NAVIGATING THE NEXUS:

A Brighter Future for Children in Urban Contexts in Central America

World Vision

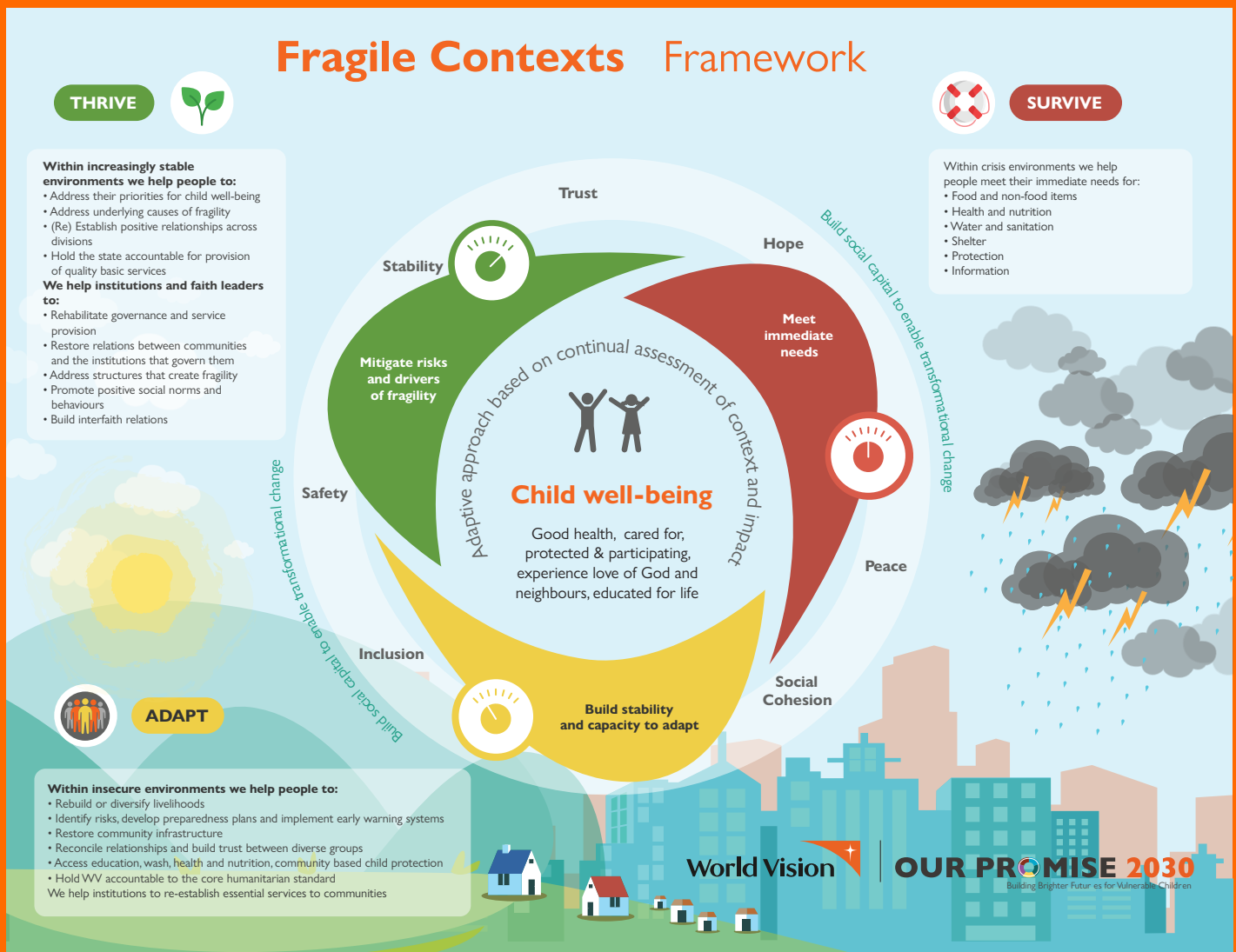


Our approach
to fragile contexts

A brighter future for children: World Vision's Fragile Contexts Approach

Two billion people live in countries where development outcomes are deeply affected by fragility, conflict and violence and which are some of the most dangerous places in the world to be a child. In these fragile contexts children face extreme levels of abuse, exploitation, deprivation and violence, often for generations.

Through its global strategy, Our Promise, World Vision is aligning its humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and advocacy efforts to address fragility. Based on more than 70 years of experience working in fragile contexts, World Vision has developed a Fragile Contexts Programme Approach (see diagram below) to support its efforts to expand and deepen its impact. Its approach has informed global frameworks, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus¹, and, in turn, is informed by them. World Vision's Fragile Contexts Programme Approach (FCPA) has been piloted in multiple countries, with more planned in the future.² World Vision's goal is to make a sustainable difference in the lives of the most vulnerable girls and boys so they can survive, adapt and thrive now and in the future despite fragility. At the heart of the FCPA is the agility to shift from meeting immediate humanitarian needs to addressing root causes even in the context of continued fragility, in order to support transformative change whenever possible, so that communities can build resilience to shocks over the long term.



1.

Introduction

Approximately 2 billion people face multidimensional vulnerability in countries deeply affected by fragility, conflict and violence,¹ making them some of the most dangerous places in the world to be a child. Additionally, urban environments contribute to unique manifestations of fragility, as inhabitants grapple with rapid growth, inequality, segregation, and the challenges of living in informal settlements, and volatile environments of ethnic and political tension.²

The CA-4 region (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) of Central America contains some of the most acute fragility in the Western Hemisphere. Poverty is widespread, with the majority of the population working in the informal sector and relying on informal services to meet their needs.³ The region faces multiple complex and protracted crises with significant humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs. Particularly in urban areas, daily life includes interrelated challenges from poverty and inequality, high levels of violence, vulnerability to (increasingly) frequent natural disasters, and high levels of internal displacement and migration. Organised crime and violence in the region are leading to some of the world's highest rates of homicide, femicide and gender-based violence.

In response to the dire humanitarian situation in places like CA-4, a new approach has emerged that aims to tackle both the causes and effects of fragility by linking work across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding “nexus” at a programmatic level. This operational framework across the triple nexus, aims to overcome siloed, output-oriented aid operations through a coordinated effort between the relevant actors implementing these types of programming.⁴ By approaching humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts as interconnected, it not only addresses immediate needs but also builds resilience to future shocks⁵ and intentionally works to weaken the drivers of fragility. Non-governmental organisations like World Vision are implementing this nexus approach to help ensure that improved child well-being is sustainably realised in fragile contexts, including in the unique

contexts that fragile cities create for children, families and communities.

Aligned with the nexus framework, World Vision developed their Fragile Contexts Programme Approach (FCPA) in 2017 to integrate nexus programming into country-level strategy. FCPA is an adaptive management approach which allows World Vision to work with partners to respond to short-term needs with flexibility, while also prioritising long-term interventions that address the drivers of fragility and risk in an integrated way across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programming. These interventions reduce the impact of recurrent shocks and stresses and address the root causes of multiple dimensions of urban poverty and fragility, which is essential for development and child well-being gains to be sustainable.

FCPA is being implemented in the CA-4 region, and this paper aims to provide World Vision with an analysis of its operationalisation of the triple nexus in fragile urban contexts based on its existing programmes. It examines the progress World Vision has made in strengthening interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in CA-4, as well as what obstacles remain. Along with considering these enabling factors for success and barriers to overcome, the paper also provides recommendations for how to strengthen nexus programming in urban fragile contexts, with the hope of improving the well-being of children and communities worldwide.

By 2030, it is predicted that 80 per cent of people experiencing extreme poverty will be living in fragile/ conflict-affected contexts,⁶ and current projections are that 23 of the 31 most fragile and conflict-affected countries today will soon be significantly urbanised.⁷ There is significant need to address both the immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term development and peacebuilding goals through effective collaboration across the triple nexus, and World Vision is well-positioned to enact this approach for the well-being of children and communities in the CA-4 region.

2.

Fragile and urban contexts in CA-4

In CA-4, compounding issues of violence and low economic opportunity, natural disasters and food insecurity further destabilise the region and contribute to urban fragility. Across the region, chronic childhood malnutrition and food insecurity are widespread, and millions of people live in areas affected by drought or are otherwise vulnerable to increasingly frequent natural disasters including volcanoes, flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes.⁸ The World Food Programme estimates that 8 million people across CA-4 are facing hunger, including 1.7 million contending with emergency levels of food insecurity.⁹

As a result of food insecurity and environmental disasters, many rural populations are moving to urban centres in search of economic opportunity.¹⁰ People experiencing such displacement and migration patterns often lack either the capital to restart economic activity or skills adapted to an urban environment, and their lack of capital and social ties further limits economic opportunity.¹¹

Across CA-4, but particularly in the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador), corruption and institutional weakness across political, security and judicial

institutions have allowed local armed organised crime groups known as *maras* to attain 'such a position of power and influence that, in many areas, national authorities are unable to provide security, enforce the rule of law, assure governance or regulate access to basic services.'¹² Children are often forced to move schools or drop out due to violence and school closures occur caused by direct threats from *maras* against schools.¹³

Homicide rates in the Northern Triangle have been among the highest in the world, with particularly high incidence of gender-based violence and femicide. In recent years, violent deaths in Honduras have outpaced sites of active armed conflict, far exceeding the threshold to be considered an epidemic.¹⁴ The high rates of violence and gang control combined with low levels of opportunity and a 'youth bubble' across the region poses risks for worsening fragility.

While pervasive at the regional level, the presence and intensity of any of these challenges varies both between and within countries. Each fragile city in CA-4 ought to be examined as a distinct unit. However, responses from World Vision staff across CA-4 identified common manifestations of urban fragility throughout the region as follows:

- concentrated areas of high poverty, crime, violence, and drug/alcohol abuse
- social inequality
- social and political unrest
- low levels of social cohesion
- unregulated urbanisation and lack of basic government services
- unemployment and lack of economic opportunity
- high levels of migration
- vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.¹⁵

The complex, interconnected nature of multidimensional urban fragility in CA-4 illustrates the need to integrate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts. Epidemic-level violence, crisis-level food insecurity, the global COVID-19 pandemic, and natural disasters all require immediate, time-sensitive humanitarian interventions to help communities survive. In this context, progressing from immediate humanitarian response to long-term development work requires peacebuilding processes. The crises are interrelated and necessitate a coordinated, multi-faceted response found uniquely in the nexus approach.



3.

World Vision's work in CA-4

World Vision has nearly 50 years of transformational development and humanitarian assistance experience in CA-4, primarily in rural contexts. Recognising the proliferation of urban fragility both globally and regionally, World Vision is making a concerted effort to link humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts for the well-being of children in fragile urban contexts, including in CA-4.

World Vision's work across CA-4 focuses on supporting vulnerable children and their families with programming spanning a variety of sectors including but not limited to education; health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); food security; livelihoods; and child protection. While historically World Vision has focused primarily on supporting transformational development in rural areas, driven by an organisation-wide strategy to prioritise the most vulnerable children, their portfolio has grown to include more extensive humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work in urban areas, including fragile cities.

In 2019, World Vision launched an FCPA pilot programme in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and is incorporating lessons and approaches from that pilot into its work elsewhere in the country and across CA-4. By tapping into the organisation's humanitarian, development and peacebuilding expertise, the FCPA provides a range of programming options which prioritise outcomes to address fragility, such as improving trust, safety, inclusion, peace and hope.¹⁶ This programming approach enables affected children, families and communities to meet immediate survival needs while also addressing the systemic root causes and drivers of conflict, fragility and vulnerability in evolving contexts.¹⁷

Based on World Vision's previous work in urban settings, the pilot programme in San Pedro Sula was designed to work at three levels to achieve sustainable impact: neighbourhood, district and city municipality. While it is necessary to develop effective partnerships and programming in the absence of effective governance, disrupting the cycles that perpetuate urban fragility requires strengthening institutional capacity and cooperation between World Vision, programming partners, and government or civil institutions. Through collaborating at various levels, World Vision worked to improve child protection through bringing together partners to enable coordinated action and through seeking increased investment in programmes and city spending to ensure basic needs of the marginalised were met.



Adaptive management practices were integrated into programme design, allowing for flexibility and continuity when there are rapid changes or when new developments arise. For example, this flexibility allowed World Vision staff in Honduras to adjust operations to maintain consistency and progress toward programme goals while reducing risk to staff and participants when violence threatened their operations. Given the timing of the pilot programme and its overlap with the COVID-19 pandemic, the integration of adaptive management was a crucial element to its success. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, in its first year the FCPA pilot programme 'reached 10,850 vulnerable children and youth and their families in San Pedro Sula with programming focused on child protection and building social cohesion despite increased violence in the targeted neighbourhoods.'¹⁸ Other 3 countries of the CA-4 have developed their own proposals which mainly focus on strengthening community cohesion and resilience, as well as, improving capacities for economic opportunities for youth.

4.

Enabling factors for successful work to strengthen the nexus in CA-4

1. Length of relationships

World Vision's longstanding presence in CA-4 has strengthened partnerships, built trust and facilitated coordination efforts with a wide array of actors.¹⁹ The organisation's commitment to long-term investment in improving the collective well-being of urban residents, especially the most vulnerable, is critical to gaining credibility with urban residents and stakeholders. While World Vision staff face significant risk when operating in dangerous areas, reports from staff across CA-4 suggest a greater relative degree of safety while working due to the trust World Vision has built in its long history and through its ties with most grassroots and local groups, most significantly their relationships with local churches.

In fragile contexts with low social cohesion and trust in institutions, World Vision has an advantage in having cultivated a reputation based on impactful development and productive partnerships with a wide array of actors. Additionally, while child sponsorship funding is not suitable for FCPA programming, child sponsorship funded programmes in the region have contributed significantly to gaining credibility with residents, neighbourhood and

city level stakeholders and partners, allowing World Vision to be viewed as a trustworthy organisation that truly cares about children's well-beings.

2. Synergy with faith communities

Key to World Vision's ability to engage in hard-to-reach neighbourhoods are their relationships with local churches. The church is trusted by residents, gangs, the private sector and government alike; World Vision's affiliation with the church helps facilitate access into dangerous places where few or no government institutions or civil society organisations are present. In fragile urban contexts, World Vision's synergy with faith communities facilitates a nexus approach. Partnerships with faith communities give World Vision physical access to hard-to-reach neighbourhoods through the communities' function as a guarantor, provide locations for programming and service delivery and allow peacebuilding programming to draw on accepted or known religious or cultural values. Moreover, these partnerships help connect World Vision to members of those communities who benefit or would benefit from programming and thereby elevates the organisation's profile and increases influence, reach and capacity.



3. Economic productivity

Some cities across CA-4 (including fragile cities like Valle de Sulla, Guatemala City and San Salvador) are national hubs of economic productivity. Urban economic productivity provides greater opportunities for World Vision to design programmes that facilitate integration into the private sector and formal economy. In areas with particularly high levels of organised crime and extortion, this approach is necessary, as more traditional approaches of supporting the creation of small businesses risk creating more opportunities for extortion and ultimately channeling additional funds to *maras*. In Honduras, for example, World Vision has developed a skills training programme that helps participants develop the professional skills necessary for private sector employment and establish agreements with private companies, that includes a pathway to internships and job offers.

World Vision's relationships with businesses and the private sector are critical elements of sustainable livelihoods programming. In cities with relatively robust private sectors (such as San Pedro Sula), World Vision's partnerships with the business community allow for the development of a pipeline to formal employment opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible to marginalised populations. Further, these partnerships foster corporate social responsibility which may in turn support peacebuilding efforts and social cohesion.

4. Social dynamics

Residents of gang-controlled areas often face discrimination from employers based on their place of living, regardless of whether they are affiliated with organised crime, as businesses are fearful of hiring an individual with gang ties and thereby facilitating extortion and exploitation of their business. Counterintuitively, this norm provides an opportunity for livelihoods programming. In contrast with contexts in which ethno-racial or sectarian tensions contribute to exclusion, World Vision staff experience suggests that the primarily geographic/territorial-patterns discrimination and exclusion may be more easily countered when a trusted third-party such as World Vision can act as a guarantor. By developing programming and relationships built on trust, World Vision is able to use its reputation to increase economic opportunities for marginalised groups such as those living in gang-controlled areas, returnees and displaced peoples.

5. Government cooperation

Throughout CA-4, there are generally high levels of government willingness to support FCPA-aligned programming, though this varies both between countries and within countries across the municipal, district and national levels. Through their decades-long presence across CA-4, World Vision country offices have developed strong ties

Partnering with governments to improve child well-being

Government cooperation in CA-4 has led to many important partnerships and interventions. For example, World Vision in El Salvador has partnered with the Office of the First Lady to integrate World Vision's BabyWASH model into national early childhood policy. BabyWASH integrates WASH interventions into maternal, new born and child health; early childhood development; and nutrition, to have a more profound impact on child health outcomes in the first 1,000 days of life. Similarly, World Vision's offices in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are part of the National Technical Teams working with the government to implement the Comprehensive Regional Protection & Solutions Framework (MIRPS) to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. In the municipality of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, as a member of the Municipal Protection Committee, World Vision has been playing a relevant role in promoting and maintaining the issue of child protection. This partnership with the government of Honduras has led to the signing and implementation of agreements under the umbrella of the National Institute for the Care of Minor Offenders to help ensure the safety of children now and in the future.

with various national ministries. As World Vision continues to collaborate with national governments and regional consortia to develop solutions to national and regional challenges, it can continue to partner with governments to address urban fragility. Specifically, where urban fragility is marked by low government capacity or access, World Vision's ability to identify, gain access to, and operate in certain hard-to-reach places will help develop experience and yield insights to strengthen collaborative efforts to address urban fragility across the nexus.

6. Technology

Globally, urban residents have greater access to technology and infrastructure, particularly mobile phones and data than those living in rural areas.²⁰ Access to and fluency with mobile phones, the internet, and other telecommunications technology can serve as a key enabler of nexus programming in multiple ways. First, it allows for programming to involve digital platforms and resources that can be accessible on demand. Additionally, it can serve as a key tool for the agile data collection necessary to successfully adapt in highly volatile contexts. Information and communication technologies have great promise as tools of development and can provide rapid feedback mechanisms and allow continuous project monitoring in places that staff may be unable to access.



7. Media partnerships

By partnering with local and international media, World Vision is able to accomplish multiple goals. First, they are able to reach a greater percentage of the local population in outreach efforts, including potential programme beneficiaries as well as potential partners from the government, private sector and civil society. Second, media partnerships serve as an important avenue for peacebuilding efforts intended to promote social cohesion. Media depictions of urban fragility (e.g., sensationalised headlines, focus on crime and violence, etc.) contribute to the normalisation of violence and further diminish social cohesion among those living in pockets of fragility. Media partnerships provide an opportunity to introduce new narratives and shift public attitudes, adding a supplemental element to direct programming. Lastly, World Vision is able to use media partnerships to document the promise of triple nexus programming, which may be used to inform donors or practice communities and ultimately promote shifts toward greater operationalising of the triple nexus.

8. Organisational willingness

Though World Vision offices across CA-4 may not have extensive history working in and on urban fragility, staff report a sense of enthusiasm, interest and appreciation for the potential impact of implementing the FCPA, in some instances due to their own experience of living in fragile contexts. Each CA-4 office is represented on a regional working group to expand FCPA programming throughout the region. This consultative body collaborates to share best practices and lessons, work to determine suitability for new locations, and more. By supporting communication and collaborating, disseminating lessons and building expertise, the CA-4 working group further enables nexus programming by cultivating a deeper understanding of urban fragility and exposure to a broader array of challenges and programming solutions than would be available through siloed national office work.

5.

Barriers to successful work to strengthen the nexus

1. Operating environment

While World Vision staff works tirelessly to improve the lives of vulnerable populations across CA-4, the context in which they live, and work provides significant challenges. The epidemic of violence and high levels of gang control lead to safety concerns for staff and disruptions to programming.

2. Government reluctance

National governments are contributing to comparatively favourable policy framework toward internally displaced persons and residents in the slums (or *asentimientos*) and informal neighbourhoods on the periphery of urban centres. However, local officials can be reluctant to promote or permit transformational development projects, though they are often willing to permit humanitarian assistance (response to natural disasters). As unregulated urbanisation persists and *asentimientos* continue to grow, local governments may be less willing to provide services to informal areas. In some instances, more highly centralised governmental processes afford local officials the ability to obstruct World Vision programming by requiring complex approval processes. Despite advancements in promoting protection of children and marginalised groups, the investment in the social sphere, including education, remains low. Additionally, areas under the control of *maras* where

formal government institutions are denied access present difficulties in getting government support for development projects and external support for integrating resources to those areas.

Without government partnerships and support, transitioning from survival to adaptation and thriving are nearly impossible. It can, therefore, be a significant barrier to cross-nexus operations.

3. Government capacity

Across CA-4, governments often lack access to certain pockets of fragility as well as technical capacity and resources to provide adequate services to residents. Even in instances where government actors and municipalities are willing to partner with World Vision offices, they may lack the ability to effectively do so due to poor capacity and lack of resources. Though FCPA programming can include capacity-strengthening elements for local governments, resource constraints may prevent governments from effectively preparing to take ownership of certain programmes and operations as World Vision's involvement in projects comes to an end. Despite strong exit planning and meaningful support, elements of government capacity lay outside of World Vision's locus of control. Low government capacity presents an additional barrier to nexus programming by limiting partnership possibilities.



4. Political instability

In politically unstable contexts there may often be high turnover of local officials, leading to instances where World Vision is beginning the exit process for a programme only to hand off to governmental actors who were not part of outcome-sustainability related negotiations and have not personally understood or committed to the work required to sustain child well-being gains. Further, political instability complicates relationships with government actors, as new officials may resent or distrust organisations with strong relationships to their predecessors. National political instability can also limit funding opportunities, especially if funding is coming from another country that no longer wishes to flow money into the unstable CA-4 government.

While political instability is a constituent element of urban fragility, it provides barriers for cross-nexus programming: it can restrict which partnerships are available and limit access to funds. When political instability results in increased violence, it may also require World Vision staff to pause programming out of concern for staff safety.

5. Migration and displacement

From a logistical standpoint, developing and maintaining long-term successful programmes – particularly those intended to promote social cohesion and trust – is difficult in fragile cities marked by high degrees of migration. Internal mobility due to violence results in high levels of psychological trauma, economic harm from abandonment of properties, separation of families, lost sources of income and interruption of education in minors, all of which risks greater levels of unmet need in fragile contexts.²¹ Displacement often leads to overcrowding which can jeopardise health and education, and can lead to perpetuating cycles of violence.²² Those forced to move due to violence often face fear of retaliation or continued violence, encouraging them to remain ‘invisible’ and not seek assistance from state or non-governmental institutions.²³

Returning migrants face an array of challenges beyond those endemic to fragility, including the inability to gain employment and rebuild their lives in their home countries, worsening psychological stress.²⁴ Lack of reintegration assistance structures and processes contribute to greater isolation. Additionally, as the poorest cannot usually afford smuggler fees, they may choose to use their houses or land plots as collateral. Those who return by choice or deportation, return to face a situation worse than when they left, losing their livelihood assets and property, and typically exacerbating food insecurity.²⁵ Emigration can also negatively impact the family members left behind who may be forced to assume the debts incurred.

6. Funding

The difficulties of integrating funding and financing mechanisms across nexus programming are well-documented. The FCPA pilot programme required securing dedicated funding of US\$1.5 million over 3 years from pooled internal funds across 12 support offices, which is an unsustainable model for working across the nexus. The sustainability of FCPA programming is dependent both on changes to international humanitarian development funding and broader sectoral integration. This shift in norms is likely a multi-year process requiring a robust campaign of donor outreach and education to sufficiently shift mindsets and cultivate the necessary political will to make this change. While these issues act as barriers to future nexus programming in general, they also present specific barriers to FCPA programming specifically, as it is difficult to develop strong partnerships when transparency requires admitting from the beginning that the continuation of the program is dependent on very rare types of funding.

7. Data collection and analysis

In order to continuously adapt programming based on context analysis and scenario planning, high quality, reliable data is of utmost importance. Such data is difficult to come by in fragile urban contexts, particularly as it pertains to some of the most important indicators such as displacement and violence. Fear of retaliation prevents those living in fragility from communicating openly about urban violence. There are also forms of violence which may not be captured by existing indicators or openly perceived. Additionally, governmental actors may not have the capacity to collect data or willingness to share certain data which they feel reflects poorly on them or could be used against them by political adversaries. There are extremely low levels of governmental transparency throughout the region. Without constant collection of high-quality data, FCPA programming may not be optimised to address the effects of fragility or their causes.



6.

Recommendations

1. Funding and financing

International organisations should:

- Work with other NGOs, research groups, etc., to highlight current gaps and challenges for financing of triple nexus programmes in fragile urban settings, sharing that research and lessons linked with promoting changes in donor practices.
- Investigate opportunities to dedicate funds toward capacity-strengthening of local organisations, including local and city governments, to help support continuity.
- Develop an advocacy strategy in key global fora and develop a robust communications strategy for public sector donors, foundations, and others that highlight some of the current challenges and opportunities for programming in fragile cities.
- Continue to document success in flexible funding and adaptive management.

Donors and implementing agencies should:

- Donors should provide and implementing agencies should seek and plan for sustainable, flexible, multi-year, and multi-sectoral programme funding in line with Grand Bargain commitments and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.
- Donor funding should allow and implementing agencies should ensure flexible operating parameters, including space to anticipate new/unmet needs through regular vulnerability, context and root-cause analyses.
- Donors should encourage actors operating across the nexus to coordinate interventions by means of a variety of partnering approaches, from formal consortia to informal information-sharing meetings focused on ensuring a holistic approach in a specific geographical area working towards collective outcomes.
- Donors should provide for and implementing agencies should reference joint context analysis and monitoring as a key principle in calls for proposals/tenders and funding application guidelines or include joint context analysis and context monitoring as a criterion for the assessment of project proposals.

2. Partnerships and planning

International organisations should:

- Work with partner agencies to explore the viability of establishing city-level nexus task forces as well as exploring national-level triple nexus working groups.
- Identify other operational NGOs that have produced reports on their experience with the triple nexus and pursue formal opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration.
- Establish strong ties and partnerships with faith communities to ensure community access and trust and strengthen ties to businesses and private sector actors to ensure sustainable livelihoods programming.

Donors and implementing agencies should:

- Provide opportunities for actors operating across the nexus to coordinate interventions by means of a variety of partnering approaches, from formal consortia to informal information-sharing meetings focused on ensuring a holistic approach in a specific geographical area working towards collective outcomes.

3. Programming approaches

International organisations should:

- Ensure programmes are informed by ongoing high-quality data collection with a conflict-informed lens which ensures safety of the collectors.
- Investigate opportunities to integrate adaptive practices into programmes to promote organisational agility.

Donors and implementing agencies should:

- Actively engage in policy dialogue with fragile states at national and subnational levels, where possible, to emphasise the contingency of long-term development funding on opportunities for international actors to integrate peacebuilding programming, including conflict resolution and social cohesion, into short-term interventions.

Annex

Methodology

Between January and May 2021, the research team conducted interviews with World Vision staff and key informants across the four countries in the Central America hub (CA-4) in a mix of English and Spanish, with one interview conducted through an interpreter. All CA-4 documentation received was written in Spanish and translated to English by the research team. Interviews were supplemented by extensive desk research.

Projects analysed:

Honduras

- Valle de Sula Initiative
- Fostering Hope for children and Youth at Risk (Valle de Sula)
- Youth Ready (Valle de Sula)
- Bright Futures (Valle de Sula)
- El Progreso Area Development Program (El Progreso)

El Salvador

- Emmanuel Area Development Program (Soyapango)
- Sowers of Love Area Development Program (Santa Ana)
- Sowers of Peace Area Development Program (San Miguel)
- Siloe Area Development Program (Sonsonate)
- Super Pilas
- Youth Ready (Sonsonate, San Miguel, San Salvador)

Nicaragua

- Tipitapa Area Development Program
- San Nicolas Development Program

Guatemala

- MAGMA project
- Guatemala Anti-Trafficking in Persons Project (GATIP)
- Faith & Development Project
- Community Roots Project
- Puentes Project (25 municipalities in the five departments of the Western Highlands: Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, Quiché, and San Marcos)
- Concepcion Chiquirichapa Development Program (Quetzaltenango)
- APAS Development Program (Jutiapa)
- La Union Zacapa Development Program (Zacapa)

Interviews conducted:

Marco Vilella – WV Central America Hub, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Karen Ramos – WV Honduras Country Program Director

Oscar Paz – WV Honduras Manager of Valle de Sula Initiative

Josué Cruz – WV El Salvador Field Operations Coordinator

Miguel Gutierrez – WV El Salvador Child Protection program coordinator

Javier Moncada – WV Nicaragua Technical Program Manager Resilience to Climate Change

Boris Salguero – WV Guatemala Non-Sponsorship Projects Manager

Cindy Rivera – WV Guatemala Non-Sponsorship Projects National Coordinator

Henry Vasquez – WV Guatemala NTCA Migration Project Coordinator

Maya Assaf-Horstmeier – (former) WV International Director, Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding

Endnotes

- ¹ World Vision International, "A Brighter Future for Children: Our Approach to Fragile Contexts," 2019.
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- ³ "Informal Employment (% of Total Non-Agricultural Employment) - Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras," International Labor Organization, ILOSTAT database (World Bank, June 21, 2020), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS?locations=GT-SV-HN>.
- ⁴ We World GVC, "The Triple Nexus: Questions and Answers on Integrating Humanitarian, Development and Peace Actions in Protracted Crises," Analysis, August 6, 2020, 3, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/triple-nexus-questions-and-answers-integrating-humanitarian-development-and-peace>.
- ⁵ We World GVC, "The Triple Nexus," 4.
- ⁶ OECD, *States of Fragility 2020*, Revised Version, November 2020, States of Fragility (Paris, France: OECD Publishing, 2020).
- ⁷ Jaideep Gupte and Stephen Commins, "Cities, Violence and Order: The Challenges and Complex Taxonomy of Security Provision in Cities of Tomorrow," *IDS Bulletin* 47, no. 4 (September 19, 2016).
- ⁸ "Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) - El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, Addendum: Impact of COVID-19" (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), May 2020), https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200701_HNO_CENTROAMERICA%20ADDENDUM%20ING.pdf, p. 8.
- ⁹ Peter J Meyer, "Central American Migration: Root Causes and U.S. Policy" (Congressional Research Service, April 22, 2021).
- ¹⁰ "The World Migration Report 2020" (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2019).
- ¹¹ "Displaced in Cities: Experiencing and Responding to Urban Internal Displacement Outside Camps" (International Committee of the Red Cross, July 19, 2018).
- ¹² Cue, Wendy, and Vicente Raimundo Núñez-Flores. "According to Need? Humanitarian Responses to Violence in Central America." *Humanitarian Exchange*, no. 69 (June 2017): 6–9.
- ¹³ Jan Egeland, "Central America: At the Tipping Point." *Humanitarian Exchange*, Special Feature, no. 69 (June 2017): 5–6; Cue and Raimundo Núñez-Flores. "According to Need? Humanitarian Responses to Violence in Central America."
- ¹⁴ "Rates of violent death above ten per 100,000 are considered an epidemic" in Jan Egeland, "Central America: At the Tipping Point," *Humanitarian Exchange*, Special Feature, no. 69 (June 2017): 5–6.
- ¹⁵ De Boer, J., Muggah, R. & Patel, R. (2016) "Conceptualizing City Fragility and Resilience" United Nations University Center for Policy Research, Working Paper 5
- ¹⁶ World Vision, "A Brighter Future,"
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Interview with WV Staff; It is worth noting that increases in violence are not necessarily indicative of ineffective pro-social cohesion programming. WV's peacebuilding approach in CA-4 primarily focuses on disrupting the cycles of violence and abuse at the household level ("parenting with tenderness") which normalise violence and ripple out through broader society, providing alternatives to illicit livelihoods which encourage violence, and in the establishment of youth peace clubs. Each of these interventions, and peacebuilding as a practice, are long-term transformative projects that aim to build a more peaceful future through generational change.
- ¹⁹ Interview with WV Staff
- ²⁰ Lester Henry, "The Digital Divide, Economic Growth and Potential Poverty Reduction: The Case of the English Speaking Caribbean By," *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies* 29 (October 28, 2011).
- ²¹ "Profiling Study on Internal Mobility Due to Violence in El Salvador" (UNHCR, JIPS, DIGESTYC, FLACSO, March 2018), <https://www.jips.org/uploads/2018/03/El-Salvador-profiling-report-EN.pdf>.
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- ²⁴ "AVR Programs in the North of Central America Countries," Monitoring Report (International Organization for Migration, November 2020).
- ²⁵ "AVR Programs in the North of Central America Countries," Monitoring Report (International Organization for Migration, November 2020).



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