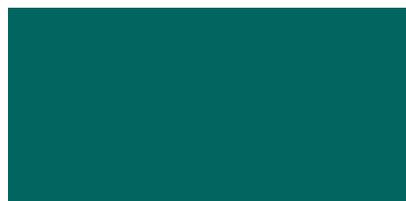




West Africa Impact Report 2021



Content

Introduction	4
World Vision Global Impact Framework	6
Girls and Boys Enjoy Good Health	9
Girls and Boys Are Educated For Life	14
Girls and Boys Are Cared For, Protected and Participating	17
Girls and Boys Experience the Love of God and Their Neighbours	19
Livelihoods and Resilience	22
Humanitarian Response	25
Accountability	29
Conclusions and Actions	30





Introduction

Driving towards significant impact for the most vulnerable children requires honest reflection. This impact report attempts to highlight both successes and lessons learned of World Vision programmes across West Africa (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone), particularly across key strategic areas of child health, child protection, literacy and the ability of families to improve their own livelihoods, to enable the sustained well-being of children.

As an impact-driven organisation, World Vision has a clear framework for measuring impact and strong accountability processes for delivery. Data is presented in this report against the key strategic priorities using external benchmarks where possible to enable genuine review of observed progress.

The operating conditions across West Africa mean that achieving significant change for children and families, especially the most vulnerable, is challenging to say the least. Specific pressures both current and historic include:

Conflict: Conflict continues to be the primary driver of an alarming rise of food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly among refugees, internally displaced and the most vulnerable.

Insecurity affects populations' ability to access and cultivate their lands.

COVID-19: The pandemic has led to currency depreciation, income losses and rapid inflation, and it has exacerbated pre-existing macroeconomic fragilities and debt levels in many countries. The spread of the Omicron variant has resulted in border closures and restrictions for a number of nations and led to travel, trade, economic and health impacts that affect the most vulnerable.



Climate change: Forecast below-average rainfall seasons and dry conditions are likely to affect agricultural production. It is projected that in the upcoming 2022 lean season, between June and August, 38 million people will become food insecure, an increase of 22% in comparison to the previous year.

Despite the enormity of these multifaceted challenges, positive changes for children are being observed across World Vision Programmes. The progress observed is not only the result of World Vision programmes; partnership with local government, local NGOs and CBOs, and community members all contribute to the intentional improvements observed.

Thank you to all those who partner with World Vision, especially the communities across the region, our partners and donors. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carla Denizard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carla Denizard
Regional Leader for West Africa,
World Vision

World Vision Global Impact Framework

World Vision's Global Impact Framework was developed based on decades of experience as a humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation working globally with vulnerable children, families and communities.

WV collaborates and advocates with governments, civil society, faith partners, peer organisations and the private sector to promote the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable, contributing to the global partnership on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The framework focuses on four areas of child well-being which contribute to the achievements of the SDGs.



Girls and boys enjoy good health

- Increase in children who are well nourished (ages 0–5)
- Increase in children protected from infection and disease (ages 0–5)
- WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) contribution



Girls and boys are educated for life

- Increase in primary-school children who can read
- Increase in children 0–6 years' old who experience quality care and education



Girls and Boys are cared for, protected and participating

- Increase in girls and boys protected from violence
- Children aged 12–18 report an increased level of well-being, including improved development assets and life skills



Girls and Boys experience the love of God and their neighbours

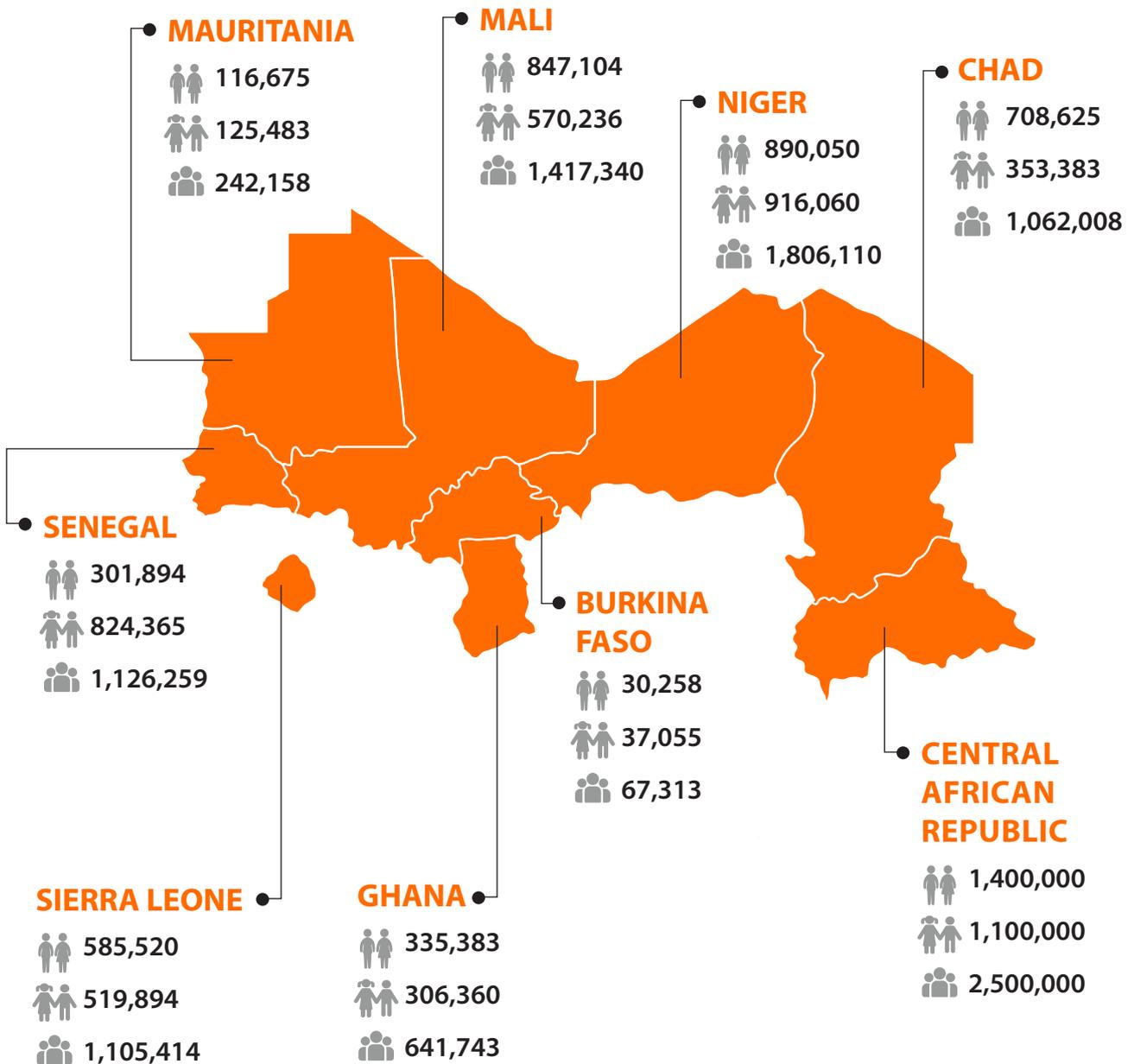
- Children report an increased awareness of God's love
- Increase in children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities

To enable contribution towards these child well-being areas, WV also works to strengthen the resilience of families and communities through building **secure livelihoods, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction and advocacy.**

Summary of Programmes in West Africa

 **9.9 M**
Total reach

 **4.7 M**
Children



 Adults  Children  Total People Reached

Advocacy – Across nine country offices in West Africa, WV contributed to 45 policy changes, affecting over 48 million children.

Central African Republic

1,345,136

Chad

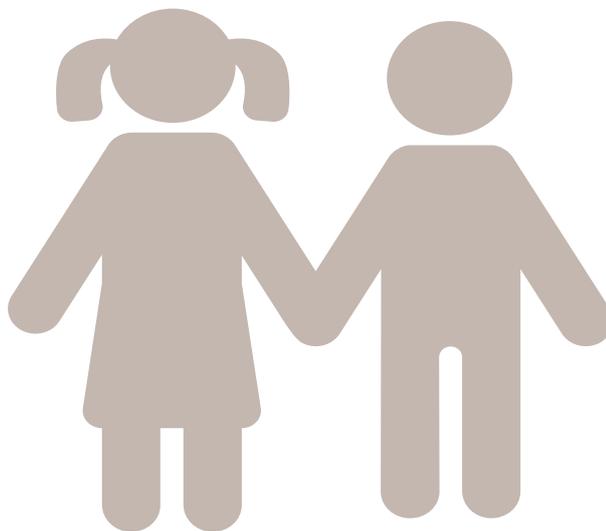
8,788,488

Ghana

12,594,022

Mali

10,930,968



Mauritania

2,665,036

Niger

4,444,101

Senegal

4,373,233

Sierra Leone

3,250,729

TOTAL: 48,391,713

Advocacy and External Engagement Impact Highlights



45 policy changes

↑ from 28 in FY20

Global Results: 603



4 policy changes related to government funding for ending violence against children (MI4**)

↑ from 2 in FY20

Global Results: 64



48 million children protected (MI3*)

↑ from 45 million in FY20

Global Results: 483 million



1,734,296 supporter advocacy actions

↓ from 5,523,000 in FY20

Global Results: 2,112,959



14 policy changes related to protecting children from violence

↑ from 10 in FY20

Global Results: 261



77% programmes supporting communities to advocate

↑ from 69% in FY20

Global Results: 77%

* **MI3:** Number of vulnerable children for whom World Vision contributed to more than one policy change or policy implementation addressing the root causes of vulnerability, and where there is some evidence of implementation of at least one of the policies.

** **MI4:** Number of policies related to allocating, increasing or defending government funding to address ending violence against children, to which the Campaign has made a significant contribution over the last fiscal year.



Girls and Boys Enjoy Good Health

Context

Nutritional surveys carried out by UNICEF in 2021¹ across the Sahel show an increase in the prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5. In Mauritania, Niger and Chad, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is above the 'alert' threshold of 10%, while in many areas of some countries, the rates exceed the emergency threshold of 15%.

In 2022, the numbers of children under 5 suffering from wasting is expected to reach levels not seen in the past. It is estimated that 6.3 million children aged 6–59 months in the Sahel will suffer from wasting, of which more than 1.4 million children will suffer from severe wasting, an increase of 27% compared to 2021.

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children, WV implements health and nutrition evidence-based interventions at scale, which are addressing critical health and nutrition needs of children and their families.

¹ WCA Regional Nutrition Working Group, 'Joint Note on the Nutrition Situation in the West and Central Africa Region', March 2022, <https://www.unicef.org/wca/media/7826/file/Note-nutrition-nie-final-en.pdf>

1.8 M
children

In 2021, WV health and nutrition programmes reached over **1.8 million children across eight countries** (Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa.

Rehabilitating underweight and wasted children through Positive Deviance/Hearth (PDH)

PDH is a behaviour-change programme used to rehabilitate underweight and moderately wasted children without medical complications, sustain their rehabilitation and prevent future malnutrition.

In 2021, WV implemented regular PDH sessions across three countries (Mali, Mauritania and Niger) in West Africa, reaching approximately 2,750 children aged 0–59 months.

Changing family behaviours to promote life-saving health practices through Time and Targeted Counselling (TTC)

TTC is a behaviour-change communication approach targeting families of young children, especially the most vulnerable. TTC encompasses a wide range of life-saving health practices through appropriately timed messages delivered using interactive storytelling.

In 2021, WV implemented TTC across four countries, reaching 717,418 pregnant women and mothers of children aged 0–23 months with nutrition and infectious disease counselling and 162,330 children aged 0–23 months with assistance from trained community health workers.

WV health and nutrition 2021 results



Presence of underweight children under 5 years



-0.9%

Mauritania

0.9% decrease
(26.1% - 25.2%) 1 year
across 15 projects



-0.8%

Senegal

0.8% decrease
(2.7% - 1.8%) 1 year
across 25 projects



-9.6%

Sierra Leone

9.6% decrease
(13.5% - 3.9%) 3 year
across 1 project



0.9%

Chad

0.9% decrease
(26.1% - 25.2%) 1 year
across 10 projects

Even with all the challenges in context, World Vision programmes adapted to the COVID-19 context and have continued to make an impact in reducing the number of children who are underweight. Programmes measuring progress in reducing malnutrition on an annual basis are generally only seeing about a 1% reduction; however, in Sierra Leone over a three-year period, a reduction of almost 10% was observed.



Percentage of children exclusively breastfed in first 6 months



13%

Mali

13% decrease
(68.0% to 54.4%)
over 3 years
across 35 projects



-11.3%

Mauritania

11.3% decrease
(from 16.3% - 5.0%)
over 1 year
across 15 projects



7%

Niger

7% increase
(21.1% - 28.1%)
over 1 year
across 18 projects



32%

Senegal

32.48% increase
(23% - 55.48%)
over 4 years
across 25 projects

Mixed results have been observed in the area of exclusive breastfeeding. Both Mali and Mauritania have seen a reversal of development gains. This is partially due to the COVID-19 related restrictions on counselling and skilled support for infant and young child feeding, but also may be due to how the survey questions were implemented. Further investigation is required.



Proportion of children 0-59 months with diarrhoea in the last 2 weeks who received effective treatment



38.4%

Senegal

38.4% increase
(50.2% to 88.6%)
over 3 years
across 25 projects



0.5%

Mauritania

0.5 decrease
(22.4% - 22%)
over 1 year
across 15 projects



20.3%

Sierra Leone

20.3% increase
(52.8% - 73.1%)
over 3 years
across 1 project in Tikonko



31%

Sierra Leone

30.6% increase
(19.2% - 49.9%)
over 3 years
across 1 project in Serabu

Highlights of impact

Treatment of wasting in Sierra Leone

World Vision collaborated with the Ministry of Health to support the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (sometimes known as Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition, CMAM) in 60 health facilities. A total of **4,264 children with severe wasting were admitted for treatment. Of those discharged, 91.4% recovered**, exceeding the Sphere Standard of >75%.

WASH

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children WV implements WASH evidence-based interventions at scale, which are achieving outstanding results in the lives of children, families and communities.

617,497
children

In 2021, WV WASH programmes reached over **927,173 people, including 617,497 children** across nine countries (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa.

WV implements a variety of approaches and interventions to help communities have safe, convenient, reliable and sustainable WASH facilities and services. These include

- Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): This approach engages the community in recognising areas where open defecation occurs and taking its own actions to become totally free of open defecation.
- Household Water Quality: Every water point is sampled and tested for physio-chemical and bacteriological compliance with country standards or WHO guidelines.
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): This sustainable approach seeks to address the socio-economic needs of all stakeholders in a watershed, preserving the environment and considering the needs of future generations.

Some highlights of 2021 WV WASH programmes in West Africa include:



417,948
households gained access to improved sanitation facilities



409,312
households gained access to improved water facilities

Highlights of impact

Improvement in access / use of an improved water source



33%

Mali

33% increase
From 56.9% to 89.9%
over 3 years
across 35 projects



23%

Mauritania

23.4 increase
From 48.8% to 72.2%
over 3 years
across 15 projects



1%

Niger

1.2% increase
From 45.8% to 47%
over 1 year
across 18 projects



23%

Senegal

23% increase
From 77% to 100%
over 3 years
across 25 projects

World Vision WASH programming has been very successful in providing hundreds of thousands of families with safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Outcome monitoring has shown projects have increased access to WASH facilities by up to 33% across 8 countries over 3 years..

WASH Key achievements

On 5 May 2022, World Vision Mali, in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water, **celebrated the successful construction of over 2000 boreholes in Mali.**

Since 1982, WV has been working alongside the Government of Mali to support its efforts to alleviate poverty, in line with the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development.

WV has contributed significantly to the improvement of the living conditions and well-being of hundreds of thousands of people in the regions of Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Segou, Sikasso, Timbuktu and the district of Bamako, through the construction of 2,818 new water points located in close proximity to households, schools and healthcare facilities. In addition, 375 non-functioning hand pumps have been rehabilitated. This activity ensures that 1.6 million Malians (more than 8% of the population) have gained access to safe drinking water. Being a catalyst for sanitation, 537 villages have been certified Open Defecation Free (ODF), and more than 550,000 people have basic access to sanitation facilities.





Girls and Boys are Educated for Life

Context

Hundreds of thousands of children are being robbed of an education across the West Africa region due to violence and insecurity in and around their schools. In Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, and Niger, there has been a surge in threats and attacks against students, teachers and schools.

Verified attacks on schools in Mali doubled between 2017 and 2019, and a sharply rising number of schools have closed or become non-operational due to violence in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger over the last two years. The Central African Republic saw a 21% increase in verified attacks on schools between 2017 and 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic also caused disruptions, with countries like Ghana closing schools up to 40 weeks nationwide and Senegal and Mauritania for almost 30 weeks.² In Senegal 3.5 million learners were affected in addition to the 1.5 million children already out of school. Supporting most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, and adolescent girls will be crucial to avoid a generational catastrophe.

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children, WV implements evidence-based education interventions focused on early grade literacy and early childhood development; these achieved notable success in 2021, with WV education programmes reaching 145,256 children across seven countries in West Africa.

² UNESCO, 'Education: From Disruption to Recovery', <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>



145,256
children

participated
in activities to
improve learning
outcomes



20,764
children

participated in
early childhood
development
programming

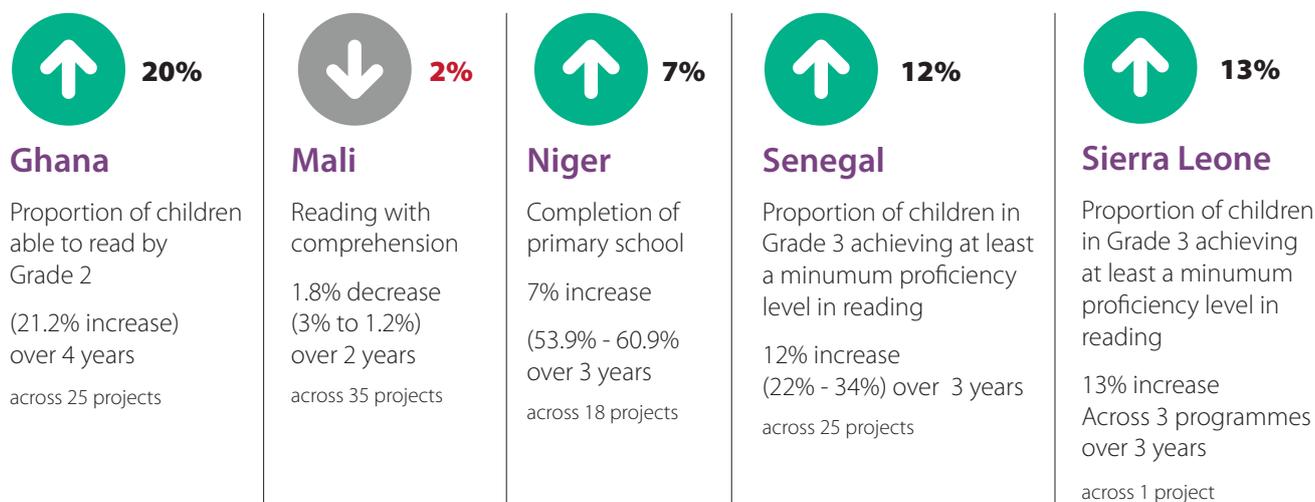
Increasing reading skills for children in the early grades of primary school through Unlock Literacy

Unlock Literacy aims to increase reading skills for children in the early grades of primary school through improving teaching methods for classroom reading and by engaging students, families and communities in reading activities outside of school. It includes training teachers to incorporate the five core reading skills into their curricula. This strengthens teaching instruction, ensuring children are learning to read, and helps them remain motivated to learn while in the classroom.

Highlights of impact



Children who are able to read



* All summary results represent percentage point changes across programmes implementing Unlock Literacy

*Measurement tools for literacy varied between offices; therefore, comparisons between countries cannot be made.

In Mali the percentage of students who can read with comprehension has decreased from 3% to 1.2%, mainly due to the security incidents, and the pressure from the jihadists in Mali. Given the multidimensional crisis in Mali, 1,664 schools in the country remain closed, with nearly half a million children and nearly 10,000 teachers affected, according to data from the education cluster for August 2021. Most of WV's 35 intervention areas were most impacted: Koro (8 Programmes), Tominian (1 Programme).

Despite challenges, other WV offices, including Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone, are seeing improvements in the number and percentage of children who can read.

Impact story

World Vision Ghana wins the 2021 UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development

World Vision Ghana was chosen as one of the three laureates of the 2021 UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development because of its implementation of Unlock Literacy. The jury appreciated the project going beyond traditional literacy projects, being action oriented and promoting peer-to-peer learning and a whole-community approach. It also commended its great potential for further scaling up and having a wider impact in the country through cooperation with the formal education sector.

Strengthening literacy instruction in school

In addition to receiving training, Unlock Literacy supported teachers with bi-monthly coaching visits in their classrooms. Madam Alice, a teacher, recounts, *'The work of the coaches has helped me a lot. I am able to discuss every aspect of teaching with them and they are always ready to help.'* The instructional coaches support the teachers through lesson planning to model lesson presentations. This support leaves teachers highly motivated and confident in teaching literacy.

Empowering communities to be champions of literacy

The pandemic revealed the value of community spaces for learning. Monitoring data shows that World Vision Ghana has 76% of reading clubs meeting quality standards (up from 57% in 2020). Improvements are still needed with regards to achieving a print-rich environment (including the availability of storybooks). *'One exciting thing about this project is the books. I was part of the writers' workshop that developed the books. These stories would have been extinct. Now that these stories are in a book, even my ancestors will be happy that I have left something worthwhile behind,'* remarked Wofa Kofi, an elder of the Onuku



A literacy volunteer facilitating book borrowing in Forifori, Ghana

community. The project creates level-appropriate books in glossy pages with exciting illustrations. These books are kept at the book banks where children can borrow them to read at home.



“I come to school because it’s the only way to get food every day” – Jean, 11, Central African Republic



Girls and Boys are Cared for, Protected and Participating

Context

Violence, abuse and exploitation of children are major problems in West Africa. According to UNICEF, in West and Central Africa about 84% of children aged 10–14 experience violent discipline. Nearly one in three teenage girls has been beaten or hit since the age of 15, and one in 10 raped or sexually abused. In West and Central Africa, four in 10 girls aged 20–24 were married before their 18th birthday. The region has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world. Meanwhile, child protection incidents are significantly underreported. It is estimated that 48.7% percent of victims aged 15– 19 never reported their experiences, and only 27% sought or received the help they needed.³

³ UNICEF, 'Protecting Children from Violence: Key Result for Children', <https://www.unicef.org/wca/protecting-children-violence>; UNICEF, 'Child Protection', <https://www.unicef.org/wca/what-we-do/child-protection>.

World Vision response

World Vision's Child Protection & Advocacy (CP&A) project model strengthens the protective environment for children, especially the most vulnerable. CP&A focuses on strengthening collaboration and interconnections between formal and informal child protection actors, while building their capacity to address the root causes of violence against children through multi-sectoral programmes.

456,182
children

In 2021, WV child protection programmes reached **456,182 children across nine countries** (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa.

Adolescent programming: In 2021, 112,188 adolescents from seven West African countries actively participated in programming including life skills, community actions and youth clubs. WV helped children and adolescents to build capacity and resilience to protect themselves and their peers, to be active citizens, and collectively to act to improve their communities. These activities are grounded in positive youth development and asset building, helping young people to thrive, make good decisions and contribute to their communities.

Highlights of impact

Strengthening child protection services and support mechanisms

Violence prevention effect of reporting and referral mechanisms: In 2021, 723,273 children from Chad, Mali and Sierra Leone benefited from child-friendly, accessible and functional reporting and referral (R&R) mechanisms. Functional R&R mechanisms strengthen the protective environment and have a violence-prevention effect for all children living in the community. They deter abusers and reduce other forms of violence against children, such as child marriage; can intervene to prevent children from living in situations of ongoing abuse; and benefit all children with the confidence that there is somewhere they can get help if they need it.

Effectiveness of child protection systems at the community level: In 2021, 480 (40%) of child protection cases were followed up by a community child-protection committee in Senegal, Chad and Mali. Community child-protection committees took actions to respond to a report of a child protection incident and closed the case, referred the report to specialised services, or followed up with other actions specific to the context and case.

Nurturing Care Group project model on child protection outcomes in Ghana

As part of an effort to apply behavioural science rigorously to child protection programming, World Vision tested a project model called Nurturing Care Group (NCG) for its effectiveness in changing child abuse and corporal punishment behaviours among parents and caregivers. This research was conducted in Ghana from 2019 through 2020, where 73,959 caregivers of children under 5 were reached in the intervention sites across 65 communities, while 20 communities served as control sites and did not implement any NCG intervention.

The NCG program promoted 15 WASH lessons and six child protection lessons which covered 30 and 12 weeks respectively. The proportion of parents or caregivers who reported using physical punishment and/or psychological aggression decreased by 28% from baseline to evaluation, while those who practised minor physical punishments decreased by 26%. The NCG also changed the belief that physical punishment was necessary to bring up a child properly. The proportion of parents or caregivers who rejected physical punishment as a way of bringing up a child properly increased by 25 % from baseline to evaluation. There were also significant increases in knowledge related to effects of abuse and neglect. The proportion of parents or caregivers who were able to describe short- and long-term effects of abuse increased by 34% from baseline to evaluation. And the proportion of adults who would report a case of child abuse increased by 40%.



Children Experience the Love of God and their Neighbours

Context

Faith leaders are often well placed to encourage positive behavioural and attitudinal change in their communities, with significant potential for activating and supporting improvements in child well-being. *'Religious leaders often have a deep and trusted relationship with their communities. They are able to foster honest dialogue, influence thinking, and provide guidance on how to promote and protect the rights and well-being of children in their communities – including by referring to tenets of their religion,'* according to Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Nigeria representative.⁴

WV works with a total of 18,663 faith leaders across eight countries.

⁴ UNICEF, 'UNICEF Launches "Faith for Life" Handbooks for Christians and Muslims: Handbooks compile faith-based recommendations on child rights and well-being for Nigerian families and communities' (23 February 2021), <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/unicef-launches-faith-life-handbooks-christians-and-muslims>.

Number of Faith Leaders in WV Programme Areas

Church leaders	7,218		2,931	
Imams/Sheikhs	7,399		1,115	
Church leaders trained in evidence-based models	3,246		773	
Imams trained in evidence-based models	1,271		416	

527,253
people

In 2021, WV implemented Faith & Development programmes across eight countries, affecting over 527,253 people.

WV's faith-based models and approaches implemented in West Africa

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children, WV implements evidence-based faith & development interventions focused on sustained well-being of children; these interventions had notable success in 2021.

a. *Spiritual Landscape Assessment (SLA)*

SLA is a consultative process that helps to identify the underlying spiritual beliefs, practices and social norms of communities that influence child well-being.

b. *Channels of Hope (CoH)*

CoH is an interactive process to create a safe space for faith leaders, their spouses and faith communities to become active participants in the well-being of children through science-based information and insight from religious texts. It reaches to the root causes and deepest convictions that influence attitudes, norms, values and practices toward the most vulnerable to achieve sustainable solutions to community needs, including child protection, gender, HIV and AIDS, maternal and newborn child health, COVID-19, and more.

The proportion of community members (direct participants) showing an increase in gender equality attitudes as a result of CoH implementation increased from 59% to 95% in Niger.

c. *Celebrating Families (CF)*

The CF project model is an effective approach in empowering parents and/or caregivers to create a safe and nurturing environment for children's spiritual nurture within families

Children with positive and peaceful relationships with their peers increased by 15% on average across two projects in Mali

d. *Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC)*

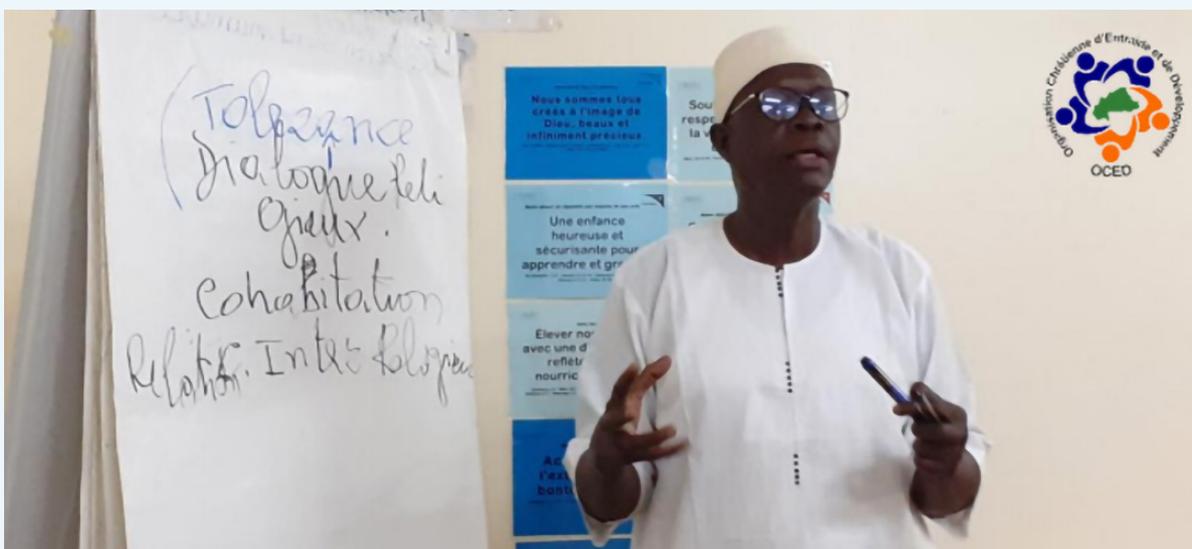
SNC is a project model for holistic child development – spiritual, socio-emotional, cognitive and physical – throughout their life cycle stages in the context of their whole being.

Highlights of impact



Hemes Sylvia (Class 5), from Friends of Jesus Club at Pong Tamale in Ghana, testifies: *'I used to beg, steal, and not [be] willing to give anyone anything. Due to this I was not in good relationship with my mates. When I started attending the Children's Club, the lessons have helped me to stop all these practices and I am hereby advising my colleagues to come to the Good News Club so that they can have a better life.'*

World Vision Burkina Faso is partnering with OCED (Organisation Chrétienne d'Entraide et de Développement – Christian Mutual Aid and Development Organisation) to mobilise faith communities for the protection of children and their families. Celebrating its 100-year anniversary under the banner of the Assemblies of God Church, OCED champions child rights and seeks to preserve the dignity and mental and spiritual well-being of crisis-affected people, in particular women. Strong local linkages and operational presence in each of Burkina Faso's 13 regions, coupled with experience in protection, education, nutrition, and women's empowerment programmes, make OCED a partner of choice for World Vision in Burkina Faso.



In July, OCED and World Vision teamed up to mobilise 39 faith leaders for child protection and social cohesion through World Vision's Channels of Hope methodology



Livelihoods and Resilience

Context

Across the West Africa Region more than 58 million people are facing severe food insecurity, almost 15 million more than one year ago and the highest caseload recorded since 2016. The situation could further escalate as millions of people affected by conflict have little or no access to their land and livelihoods.

Climate change is threatening already fragile livelihoods and having adverse impacts on security. Droughts are becoming more recurrent and severe, and rainfall is irregular and increasingly unpredictable. OCHA reported that “in 2021, flooding affected over 1.2 million people in 13 countries of the region.”⁵

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children WV implements evidence based livelihood interventions, focused on building sustainable livelihoods for households, achieving notable successes in 2021.

⁵ OCHA, 'West and Central Africa: General Overview: Analysis of Context, Crisis, and Needs' (31 December 2021), <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/west-central-africa/card/2l3mvguFKg/>.

72
projects

In 2021, WV implemented livelihood programs through 72 projects across eight countries

865,560
children

in households where a parent or caregiver benefited from World Vision-supported livelihood programming.

Building resilience of families through Savings for Transformation (S4T)

S4T is an approach which provides a sustainable platform for families to access savings and small loans to cope with household emergencies.

In 2021, there were over 10,000 savings groups across the West Africa region, with almost 250,000 active members. More than 75% of these members are women.

Environmental stewardship

Across seven countries – Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone – WV has implemented 90 projects that are addressing environmental stewardship and climate change. The majority of these projects focus on climate resilience and adaptation through interventions such as climate-smart agriculture, Farmer Managed Natural Resource Management (FMNR) and natural resource management.

Highlights of impact



Percentage of households when faced with a disaster were able to apply effective risk reduction strategies with a positive outcome



=

Mali

44.5% (41.8%-47.0%)
across 35 projects



17%

Mauritania

17.2% decrease
(76.5%-59.3%)
over 1 year
across 15 projects



=

Sierra Leone

No baseline - current
situation is 76.92%
across 1 project



14%

Senegal

14.12% increase
(74.3%-88.42%)
over 3 years
across 25 projects

While it is recognised that the region is facing huge challenges, as highlighted in Mauritania where community resilience appears to be decreasing, communities working with WV are making an impact for children.

Impact story

How Nasbatou got her joy back

In Niger, according to UNICEF, 30% of girls are married before the age of 15, and 75% before the age of 18. These marriages often interrupt girls' schooling, as was the case with Nasbatou Issoufou, a 25-year-old mother who has been divorced and remarried for several years.

'My name is Nasbatou Issoufou; I am 25 years old and I live in the village of Kalfou. I have four children, but I live with three of them. The eldest has lived with his father since we divorced.'

'For six years I have been a member of the savings group called Tatali lyali, which means "taking care of the family" in my mother tongue. I love this group because it has transformed my life and my children's lives.'

'Before joining the savings group, life was boring and difficult. I depended solely on what my ex-husband sent (rarely) for the children through his parents.'

'My children had lost interest in school because I didn't have any recess fee to give them. They couldn't bear to watch their friends eat during recess. When they came back from school, they spent all their time crying, and that broke my heart.'

'One day, one of my friends informed me about the savings group. So I joined and started to participate in the different meetings. I took a loan with which I started making cookies that I sold in the neighbourhood. After that, I took out a new loan to pay for women's items that I resold. Every month I can have a profit of 30,000 CFA [US\$60], and with these savings, I was able to buy eight goats that I was breeding. Last year, I sold four at 115,000 CFA [US\$230]. With some part of this amount, I paid for food for the house, and with the other, I repaired our house. I had four goats left, and one of them has just given birth, so now I have five goats.'

'Since I became a member of this savings group, there has been a big change in my life and my children's lives. Now I can take care of my children without any problem. The children go to school happily because, every day, each of them receives money for recess. I can assure 20,000 CFA [US\$40] per month, whereas before to find 3,000 CFA [US\$6] per month was an ordeal.'

In addition to Nasbatou's group, 139 groups of 25 women were trained not only on income-generating activities, but also on community life, financial management and ideas on entrepreneurship.





Humanitarian Response

Context

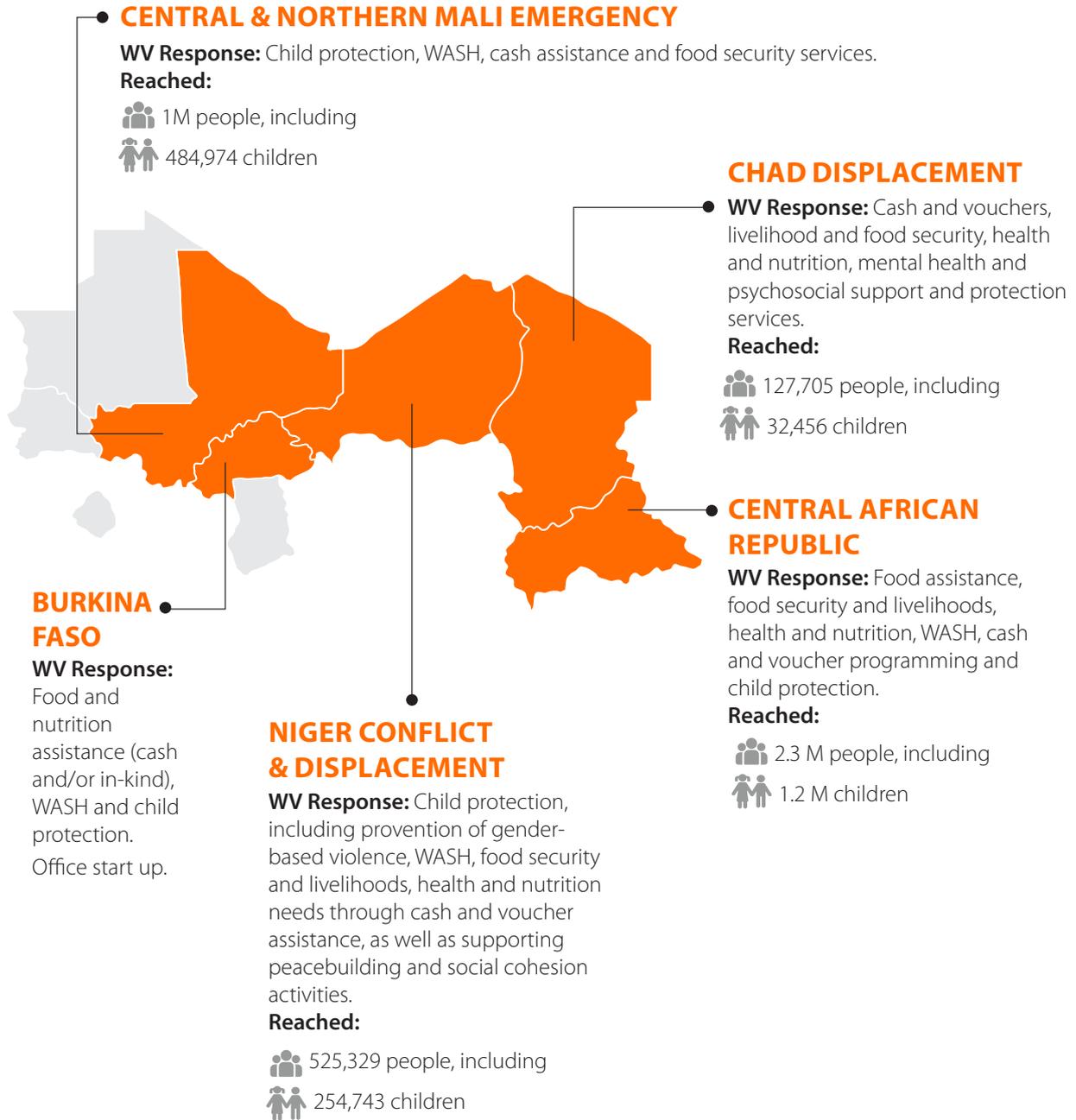
The crisis in the Central Sahel has received inadequate international attention, and humanitarian response efforts are severely underfunded despite the immense and growing needs. World Vision's key concerns are for the heightened vulnerability/protection issues faced by girls and boys, and the increasing food insecurity across the region, driven by rising conflict and insecurity, climate change and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional concerns include lack of funding and humanitarian access, increased insecurity and its impact on humanitarian staff safety, and political instability (and resultant sanctions) that could further exacerbate the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Families are deeply affected and struggling to provide as food prices continue to rise and livelihoods are disrupted.

As the crisis deepens, an entire generation is affected. The education of millions of children is compromised. Across the Central Sahel, over 5,500 schools are closed or non-operational due to violence, jeopardising children's future, especially girls, who are the least likely to return to school after prolonged interruptions.

To maximise the impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children, WV implements evidence-based life-saving and resilience-building interventions.

2 million children

In 2021, World Vision reached **more than 4 million people, including almost 2 million children**, with more than US\$85 million in humanitarian assistance, across five countries (Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, Mali and Niger). US\$18 million in cash and voucher assistance was distributed in the region.



Summary of achievements



223,000
people
were provided with
access to clean water.



29,000
children
received school meals
through school feeding
programmes.



87,000
children
were reached through SAM (severe acute malnutrition)
and MAM (moderate acute malnutrition) management
(active case finding for early detection and referral).



18,000
children
were reached with
supplementary and
therapeutic food.



386,000
people
were reached with (in-
kind) food assistance.



91,000
people
were reached with cash
and voucher assistance.



11,000
people
were reached through
provision of livelihood assets.



98,000
people
were reached through
primary healthcare
support.



7,854
people
received psychosocial
support.



COVID-19 response: World Vision continues to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in eight countries in West Africa: Chad, Central African Republic, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone, especially in places where children and families are the most vulnerable. In 2020 and 2021, WV COVID-19 response interventions reached 5.7 million people, including 2.5 million children.

Highlights of impact

Léonie Pamo, aged 28 and mother of six children, fled insecurity in Ippy in 2019 to come and settle in Bambari. When she arrived in the area, her work for others never provided enough to feed and care for her six children. She had to rely on humanitarian assistance, which unfortunately was not available until the Emergency Food Security Project in Bambari started its operations.

‘When I arrived in this area, it was not easy to get land for cultivation, and seeds and vegetables were scarce and expensive in the local market. I had difficulties feeding my children, and I had to engage in casual labour to survive,’ said Ms Pamo.



Madomale village in Pladama commune is one of the poorest villages, and most of the population rely on humanitarian assistance and small economic activities. Her six children, like any other child in Madomale, were at risk of malnutrition.

‘Several households in our village have the same problem as me. We do not have access to food because the population lost their reserves and agricultural granaries during the recent crisis of December 2020,’ she explained.

In September 2020, Ms Pamo was selected to get assistance from an emergency food security project. After attending the farmer-field-school-training sessions organised by the project, she applied the techniques that she had learned and saw results two months after planting 40 grams of seeds of each of the following vegetable species – amaranth, spinach, onion, tomato and carrot.

The seeds started producing their first vegetables in February 2021, and she harvested over 50 kilograms of different vegetables in February and March 2021. She took the surplus to the village market since she and her children cannot consume them all. In addition, vegetables in her gardens continue to grow well and produce more. She expects that the harvest will reach around 150 kilograms when all vegetables are fully grown.

Accountability

World Vision’s accountability approach describes how WV seeks to be accountable to all of its stakeholders, but particularly to the children and communities it serves, recognising that they are often in a position of vulnerability, with their needs, rights and ideas often ignored by more powerful decision makers, including NGOs. Programme accountability includes four practices – pillars – that WV is committed to whenever directly engaging with children and communities across all types of programming. The four pillars are information provision, consulting with communities, promoting participation, and collecting and acting on feedback and complaints.

Over the past three years, WV has implemented a global initiative on ‘community-level incident reporting’ aiming to empower children and communities to report any WV (or affiliate) staff misconduct, with a particular focus on safeguarding incidents. The initiative has contributed in fulfilling WV’s commitment to increase both quality and scale of accountability across all offices, including offices in West Africa. The analysis is produced using different data sources – Safeguarding Update Report (self-assessment), Integrated Incident Management (IIM) data, Programme Quality Self-Review (PQSR) data, and evidence of implementation (use of accountability indicators and submission of documentation) – to validate the progress in accountability practices.

Self-assessment in the Safeguarding Update Report shows that complaints mechanisms exist in 95% of programming in West Africa. This is a 14% increase compared to last year.

Country	Complaints mechanisms exist		Complaints mechanisms are contextually appropriate		Information is provided to children and communities	
	FY21	FY22	FY21	FY22	FY21	FY22
Central African Republic	80%	90%	75%	77%	40%	90%
Chad	83%	83%	83%	83%	73%	73%
Ghana	87%	98%	100%	98%	100%	98%
Mali	97%	98%	98%	100%	85%	97%
Mauritania	100%	100%	75%	87%	75%	94%
Niger	100%	99%	95%	100%	50%	100%
Sierra Leone	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Senegal	100%	100%	75%	80%	100%	90%

*No data available for Burkina Faso



A Suggestion Box in Central African Republic

On average, 93% feedback and complaints in the region have been responded within the agreed timeline; however, the indicator on information provision shows some gaps which will need to be improved.

Conclusions and Actions

Reflecting on the progress of **World Vision's programmes across West Africa is hugely encouraging. The number of people reached is almost 10 million, including over 4.7 million children. The scale of programming has been magnified through successful advocacy (both policy change and implementation) to over 48 million children.** This significant reach gives WV reason for celebration, and there is some evidence of positive change. Nonetheless, a multitude of crises, hunger, COVID-19, conflict and climate-related challenge, are affecting families significantly across the region. With some countries showing more positive change than others depending on the context, some of the most pertinent learnings for WV are as follows:

- The CMAM model is showing an impact in reducing malnutrition in children under 5. Given the escalating hunger crisis, **WV offices should scale up the use of this approach.**
- WASH programming is consistently showing a positive impact on children and families; thus, the **continued integration of WASH, health and nutrition programming is critical.**
- There is a danger of reversing some of the development gains in education. Due to COVID-19 and conflict, many children have not been able to attend formal education for substantial amounts of time. The Unlock Literacy project model is showing signs of success in improving literacy in more stable contexts and also in less stable contexts, such as Niger. **World Vision should support children who have been out of school with catch-up and remedial programmes to have a positive impact on both education and child protection outcomes.**
- The integrated approach to programming for children is highlighted by the impact of the NCG (Nurturing Care Group) pilot study. Through challenging social norms together with communities, WV has been able to reduce physical and/or psychological violence against children by parents and caregivers. **In order to increase child protection impact, field offices need to use the NCG CP module or other evidence-based parenting interventions** with sufficient coverage as part of a broader CP systems approach (CP&A project model) addressing root causes. These interventions need to meet WV's implementation quality standards.
- Undoubtedly one of the most successful WV programme interventions across West Africa is Savings for Transformation. The S4T groups have 250,000 members, 75% of which are women. These groups are empowering women and transforming their role in communities. This, in turn, contributes to the increased well-being of children through not only business opportunities and improved income, but also the impact of inspiring other women and girls. **Moving forward, WV needs to address barriers adults and children face due to gender in the design and implementation of all programme activities. This will support the sustained well-being of children, as seen in S4T programming.**
- Working with Faith leaders across the region is an important factor in bringing about sustained change - this is proven, however to improve the evidence base in this area, and across change in lives of children more broadly, WV needs to continue to focus the number of standardised measures. This will enable communities, partners, and staff to understand which interventions are making the biggest difference, to who, and why.



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At World Vision, our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most dangerous places, overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian faith, we've worked together with communities, partners, local leaders and governments, for over 70 years, so that children – of all faiths and none – are empowered to experience fullness of life.

June 2022