



Asia and the Pacific is home to an estimated 155.2 million people living in extreme poverty.<sup>1</sup> Challenges faced by poor families in meeting their basic needs and securing their livelihoods are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, and rising cost of living.

World Vision has been present in East Asia for more than seven decades, since our founding in 1950. We have offices in **Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam**<sup>2</sup>, delivering multi-sector programming informed by the needs and priorities of local communities. Our programmes are supported by **over 2,200 staff, more than 99% of whom are local.**

More than **8 million** vulnerable children and families across East Asia were positively impacted by our programmes in 2022. Additionally, through our engagement with governments and advocacy networks, we contributed to 142 policy changes, creating a more positive enabling environment for **44 million** vulnerable children to access their rights, harness opportunities, and achieve their potential.

In response to the growing and complex challenges within East Asia, we are deepening our commitment to serve the most vulnerable girls and boys through a greater focus on building community resilience to climate change, addressing the impacts of migration and displacement on children, and working with partners to support policy and systems level change.

Country	Focus Areas
Cambodia	
China	
Lao PDR	
Mongolia	
Myanmar	
Thailand	
Viet Nam	



Sectors	
Climate Change Adaptation	Food Security
Child Participation	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
Child Protection	Livelihoods
Disaster Management	Nutrition
Disaster Risk Reduction	Resilience
Education	WASH
Faith and Development	Youth Development

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED** **8,064,829**

**MEN** **1,801,039**

**WOMEN** **2,434,788**

**BOYS** **2,049,878**

**GIRLS** **1,779,124**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2023>

<sup>2</sup> To see other countries where World Vision works globally, please visit our website: <https://www.wvi.org/locations>

## CHILD PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION

Children and adolescents in East Asia are exposed to high levels of household, institutional and societal gender inequality. Violence against girls is common in the region, with harmful attitudes and norms perpetuating violence, trafficking, adolescent pregnancy, and child marriage. Children with disabilities are also at heightened risk of neglect and abuse. In addition, millions of children in the region affected by migration are particularly vulnerable to protection risks, including trafficking and exploitation.

World Vision's Child Protection programmes enhance the protection of girls and boys, safeguarding them from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. We employ an integrated and holistic approach by collaborating with local authorities, civil society organisations, multi-faith groups, and community actors. This collaboration aims to establish and strengthen local child protection systems that are well-coordinated and fully functional, ultimately creating a safe environment for all children.

As a child focussed organisation, child participation is a cornerstone of World Vision's work. This includes harnessing the energy and supporting the aspirations of young people as leaders in advancing social and economic change. World Vision's programming aims to provide a platform for children and young people to be empowered contributors in community planning and to participate in dialogue where they can share experiences and recommendations with decision makers, such as government and UN agencies.



REACH



In **China**, World Vision is working towards improving the well-being of migrant children by building the capacity of the local NGOs to provide better quality services for migrant children and their caregivers. 7,123 children have participated in promoting quality development and self-protection activities. In the same project area, parents and teachers reported improved understanding of child protection and their responsibilities towards child development. Through the project, 14,150 people have been impacted.

In **Mongolia**, through the Child Protection Compact project, World Vision partnered with government authorities and the International Labour Organisation to strengthen policy implementation and equip 150 labour inspectors and child rights officers with the knowledge and tools to effectively enforce child labour laws.

In **Thailand**, World Vision established a community-based child protection network in Mae Taeng, Chiang Ma. We also supported the operations and drove the setup of local-level child protection committees in all sub-districts in Utraratit's Thong Saen Khan district and Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan district.

## EDUCATION



Despite significant progress in increasing access to education in the East Asia region over the past two decades, these achievements are now at risk of being eroded because of the ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 and school closures.

Children with disabilities, from ethnic minority groups, those impacted by disaster, or affected by migration, encounter even greater barriers in accessing quality education.

To address these issues, World Vision's education programming is focussed on improving access to quality education for marginalised and vulnerable children. This includes initiatives such as improving school infrastructure, supporting teaching methods, promoting early childhood development, ensuring safe learning environments, and responding to education needs in emergencies. World Vision implements project models such as Unlock Literacy to improve reading skills, Learning Roots to enhance early childhood education and development outcomes, and Citizen Voice and Action as a tool to promote accountability in government service delivery.

REACH



In **Lao PDR**, World Vision education programming takes a holistic approach, ensuring that teachers have the necessary training and resources to make learning engaging and caregivers are equipped with the knowledge and tools to support their children's education. Evaluation results illustrate the effectiveness of this integrated approach with the proportion of children in grade 3 who can read with comprehension increasing by 20%, from 20% (2019) to 40% (2021).

In **China**, World Vision partners with the Government's Social Service Centre to provide services to children with disabilities, build life skills, and increase access to basic formal education. In addition, we also support migrant children to access education services.

In **Cambodia**, the education programme provides extensive learning support to children both within school settings, including classrooms and libraries, as well as in their homes and communities. It includes capacity building for teachers, enhancing library resources, establishing reading corners at home, and organising weekend reading camps.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Malnutrition is one of the most critical challenges for children in the region. In 2022 **1.1 million children under 5** in East Asia were affected by wasting<sup>3</sup> - the most dangerous form of undernutrition. In addition to high rates of malnutrition, East Asia also reports high rates of maternal mortality with 105 deaths per 100,000 live births.

World Vision implements integrated and evidence-based approaches to address the root causes of malnutrition and poor maternal and newborn health outcomes and strengthen local health systems and structures. Through World Vision’s social accountability projects, government service providers have become more responsive to the concerns of citizens, proposing and implementing solutions to the issues raised by the community. Joint government and community action plans have also contributed to improved performance of local service providers and the quality of local public services.

**REACH** **751,880** **182,732** **290,530** **143,030** **135,588**

World Vision’s Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF-2) project in partnership with the Government of **Cambodia** and funded by the World Bank Trust Fund promotes community empowerment and facilitates dialogue with service providers to implement joint accountability action plans (JAAPs) to improve service delivery. From 2020-2022, 486,000 citizens and officials have participated in the second phase of the project, which has seen 29,630 JAAPs developed.

In **Lao PDR**, the Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) Project, funded by the European Union, significantly improved the nutrition outcomes of 124 rural communities in Southern Lao PDR. The evaluation found stunting rates in children under five years old decreased significantly from 46.7% (2018) to 29.3% (2022).



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Nearly 910 million people in the East Asia-Pacific region lack access safe sanitation services, while an estimated 116 million do not have access to basic drinking water<sup>4</sup>. In East Asia, households in rural communities and informal urban settlements are disproportionately impacted by poor access to WASH. These issues contribute to high child mortality rates and under-nutrition, while also acting as a barrier to education, especially for girls.

World Vision’s WASH programming supports communities to have improved and dignified access to climate resilient, safe, and reliable water and sanitation facilities and services. World Vision works alongside local communities and community groups to strengthen water management, improve access to and use of sanitation facilities such as latrines, and improve hygiene practices.

**REACH** **201,132** **40,152** **42,260** **58,267** **60,453**



In **Viet Nam**, World Vision programmes contributed towards significant improvement in water and sanitation, with an evaluation finding the proportion of households using improved sanitation facilities for defecation had increased by 27.4% over a three-year period (from 46.5% in 2018, to 73.9% in 2021).

In **Cambodia**, World Vision implemented behaviour change interventions and community-led activities to improve access to safe water, promoting good sanitation and hygiene practices. An evaluation found the proportion of households with designated place for handwashing where water and soap are present increased by 26.6%, from 51.7% (2018) to 78.3% (2021).



In **Lao PDR**, our water and sanitation projects provided sustainable access to clean water by building water systems, connecting the household directly to the water source. Access to clean water means better ways to protect against communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Communities and children have a new, improved source of water to practise handwashing. An estimated 3,396 individuals have benefitted from the project.

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-report-2023/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/eap/what-we-do/wash>

## FOOD SECURITY

More than 69 million people in the Asia Pacific region were considered acutely food insecure in 2022, an increase of 7 million people from 2021<sup>5</sup>. This has been driven by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and subsequent Global Food Crisis, in addition to conflict in the region, and climate shocks.

World Vision is working to address food security issues sustainably and holistically in East Asia through our integrated nutrition, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, and resilience programmes, as well as our policy engagement with governments.

We promote sustainable agricultural practices, natural resource management, diversified livelihoods, and empower communities through the development of contextualised climate-resilient farming practices. Working in close partnership with governments to strengthen policies and systems that affect food security is one of the key aspects of our resilient livelihood programmes.



In **Mongolia**, together with local government and partners, World Vision supported households with food aid and financial management trainings which contributed to increased dietary diversity at household level. An evaluation of the programme found the proportion of households with sufficient dietary diversity increased from 67.4% in 2018 to 79.3% in 2021.

World Vision, in **Cambodia**, has been promoting infant and young child practices among the parents and caregivers that is crucial for physical and cognitive development of young children. The end-line assessment of the Five-Year Health and Nutrition programme found 78.2% of children aged 6-24 months received a minimum acceptable diet in the year 2021 compared to 70.4% of children aged 6-24 months in 2018.

## LIVELIHOODS

East Asia has made notable economic progress over the past two decades. However, the Covid-19 pandemic pushed almost 5 million more people into extreme poverty in 2021, with almost 10 million jobs disappearing across the region.<sup>6</sup>

The climate crisis threatens tourism and agricultural livelihoods across the region, especially in low-laying coastal areas. Meanwhile, manufacturing industries across the region continue to suffer from the impact of international crises and inflation, reducing wages and employment opportunities.

World Vision's livelihoods programmes employ holistic approaches to empower households especially women to have increased access to profitable, safe, and sustainable livelihoods and employment. This includes through increased access to microfinance and savings groups, improved agricultural production through sustainable and climate smart agriculture, and increased access to markets. Families are also supported to develop financial literacy and business acumen skills.



In **Viet Nam**, World Vision supported communities with improved access to quality seeds and tools, and climate-smart agriculture methods, as well as increasing access to more profitable markets. A programme evaluation found the proportion of parents or caregivers able to provide well for their children increased by 10.5% over a three year period (from 77.9% in 2018 to 88.4% in 2021).

World Vision in **Mongolia** is supporting families to improve agricultural practices and productivity, promoting sustainable farming techniques, and climate-smart agriculture. Evaluation results demonstrate that the proportion of households with the means to save money increased by 4.98% (from 26.52% in 2018 to 31.5% in 2021). Similarly, proportion of households who can access credit when needed had increased by 17.02% (from 0.88% in FY18 to 17.9% in 2021).



<sup>5</sup> WFP, the Global Food Crisis: Impact on the Asia Pacific Region, 2023

<sup>6</sup> Asian Development Bank, 2022

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Seventy percent of people impacted by natural disasters live in the Asia-Pacific region, with countries in the region vulnerable to climate related hazards such as floods, storms/cyclones, drought, and landslides<sup>7</sup>. Against the backdrop of natural disasters, conflict and political instability continues in Myanmar, where 14.4 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2022<sup>8</sup>. Conflict and natural disasters continue to be a key driver of internal displacement in the region.

World Vision delivered multi-sectoral programming to support children and their families with the tools and resources required to mitigate the risk of climate induced disasters, as well as supporting post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation through WASH, livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, and child protection programming.

In 2022, WV distributed USD\$4 million in cash voucher assistance, supporting 506,936 people in Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Mongolia with dignified immediate survival assistance while also supporting local market recovery. Cash voucher assistance has been incorporated in our humanitarian and emergency response as well as longer-term development programming where appropriate to the local context.



**REACH** **722,446** **198,887** **243,088** **134,065** **146,406**



In **Myanmar**, cash-based assistance not only supported households in conflicted affected areas to meet immediate needs, it also enabled more than 700 households to use the cash to start their proposed business plans. Cash for work activities also supported the renovation of village roads, drainage, fishpond, drinking water pond, farmland, and nursery work.

**World Vision China** assisted over 9364 people affected by flooding in the southern part of the country, providing food and non-food items, and supporting child protection activities.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Climate change is reshaping the disaster risk landscape in East Asia, particularly in the Mekong River basin where millions of people live. Sea-level rise and the potential for cyclone-induced storm surges pose significant threats to communities who depend on the river's resources for their sustenance and livelihoods. In the face of these challenges, World Vision integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in our interventions, ensuring sustainable humanitarian and development programming.

In collaboration with governments, local actors, and other partners, World Vision's Anticipatory Action programming is leading efforts to reduce the impacts of hazards before they occur, or are felt, in order to mitigate the vulnerability of children and communities to extreme weather events. We support the transition to clean energy and adoption of energy-efficient practices and promote nature-based solutions to sustainably manage natural resources to support community resilience.



**REACH** **919,432** **238,416** **319,395** **192,316** **169,305**



**ASEAN Countries:** With funding from the ECHO under the regional Humanitarian Implementation Plan, World Vision together with CARE and Plan International, developed a training module on inclusive, gender-responsible anticipatory action for effective disaster preparedness for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The training module supports ASEAN Member States in strengthening anticipatory action and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion.

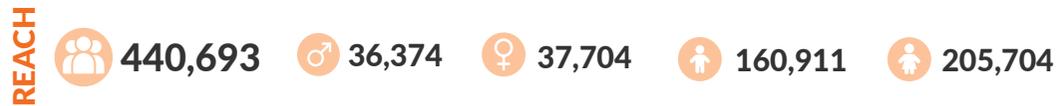
In **Thailand**, World Vision supported a youth-led Mangrove Reforestation Initiative to strengthen natural barriers and protection to coastal communities from cyclones and tsunamis in the Ban Bang Lang and Bang Bang Daet area.

<sup>7</sup> UNOCHA, Asia Response Plan, 2022

## FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT

Faith leaders are essential partners for community transformation, holding deep and trusted relationships within their communities. World Vision works with people and leaders from all faiths to address the spiritual, moral, and cultural dimensions of child well-being and promote social cohesion and peacebuilding.

World Vision's Celebrating Families model teaches parents, caregivers and faith leaders about their role in creating a safe and loving environment to support the spiritual nurture of children and equips them in how to translate these principles into practical actions that can be applied within the family. Through this process, parents, caregivers and faith leaders learn to identify and address family issues that hinder children's spiritual and holistic development and support practices that lead to improved family relationships and a decrease in harmful attitudes and behaviours surrounding children's violence and neglect within the family.



In **Lao PDR**, World Vision mobilised a national network of interfaith partners supporting child protection, holistic development of children, and positive parenting practices with parents and guardians through the Celebrating Families model.

In **Myanmar**, World Vision collaborated with faith leaders, Sunday school teachers and caregivers for improving positive parenting for well-being of children through the Celebrating Families model.



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

World Vision's youth development programmes aim to empower young people to thrive in all aspects of their lives by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to access and engage in available opportunities. These programmes aim to empower young people to overcome barriers to their participation in economic and educational opportunities, challenge harmful gender norms and roles, and increase understanding of the risks of unsafe migration.

World Vision works to actively promote the voices of young people to advocate for their rights and the needs of their communities providing them with a platform to engage directly with decision-makers.



In **Thailand**, World Vision implemented the Youth Development project which aimed to empower adolescents and youths by equipping them with the necessary life skills to access and engage in safe work and livelihood opportunities. The holistic and integrated programme focuses on equipping youth with strong life skills to prepare them for employment and thrive as active members of their community, supporting them to grow financial literacy and management skills, and promoting youth's active participation in policy changes that promote their overall well-being. Overall, 35,793 young people (18254 girls and 17539 boys) received support from the programme.

In **Lao PDR**, integrated and holistic World Vision programming works with young people to increase their understanding of adolescent and sexual reproductive health. The trainings provide a safe space for youth to discuss and tackle issues they face around puberty, adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence, and risk-taking behaviour such as alcohol and drug use.

In **Vietnam**, World Vision contributes to knowledge building to drive policy and support initiatives against Child Marriage through research on its impacts on girls and young women. Child and youth groups in Viet Nam also carry out advocacy and community campaigns to raise awareness about the impact of child marriage especially on girls.



## TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

The success of our programmes over the past 70 years would not have been possible without partners. We value the many close and trusted partnerships that we enjoy with communities, governments, faith leaders, civil society organisations, research institutions, businesses, donors, and all manner of collaborators across the region who share our vision for children.

World Vision's absolute priority is protecting children, vulnerable communities and our own staff. We are committed, across all programmes, to provide information, consult with communities, promote participation, and collect and act on feedback and complaints from community members.

In World Vision programmes, we have mechanisms to enable communities, beneficiaries, and staff to report potential cases of abuse. We provide training for frontline staff in how to recognise and respond to issues of sexual exploitation and abuse, of children, vulnerable groups, and staff. For more than ten years, we have provided a confidential Integrity and Protection (Whistleblower) Hotline.

Our programmes empower communities, including the most vulnerable and give the rights back to the children and communities, we serve.





Thank you to some of our donors and partners who have supported our work in 2022

