



WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA NEWSLETTER

Empowering & Transforming Lives

World Vision 

ANOTHER YEAR OF IMPACT

Leader Reflection

An opening note from a leader in our region

Dear friends,

It fills me with great joy to present this issue of our World Vision West & Central Africa Regional Newsletter as we close the chapter on 2024 —another year of impact. In this issue, we highlight the remarkable progress accomplished across our programmes throughout the year, looking back on the trials and celebrating the triumphs.

This year brought its share of challenges which demanded a new level to our commitment to creating lasting change for children and communities in need across the region. Nevertheless, the many successes we achieved this year revealed the resilience and strength of the communities we serve, the innovation of our teams, and your unwavering commitment as our partners and supporters. Together, we turned obstacles into opportunities, proving once again that lasting change is possible when we unite around a shared vision.

Our calling remains as clear as ever—to reach the most vulnerable, to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice, and to ensure that every child and community we serve has the chance to thrive. Central to our mission are the voices of children themselves—guiding, inspiring, and reminding us of the future that we are striving to build.

As we prepare to step into a new year, I invite you to look back on 2024 as having been a year of plenty. Plenty of transformation, plenty of impact, and plenty of resources with over US\$ 290 million mobilised to support vulnerable children and families. We also made plenty of progress towards building brighter futures for children as we kicked off the ENOUGH

Campaign to end child hunger and malnutrition in all nine countries where we operate within the region. Despite its trials, 2024 has also been plenty of God's blessings manifested through His people, including you. Your support has been a cornerstone of our impact.

I pray that you will join us in 2025 as our journey to make a lasting impact continues. May you be encouraged by the updates in this newsletter.

With warmest wishes,

**Jean-Claude Mukadi - Senior Director of Operations
(West Africa) & Interim National Director (Ghana)**



Milestones

Key celebrations and flagship events from the past quarter



Elevating Voices on Nutrition:

World Vision is collaborating with partners on dialogues with children that will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all. World Vision recently organised workshops with children in the Central African Republic & Ghana.

[Learn More>>](#)



#GirlsTakeOver: As part of marking this year's International Day of the Girl in October, World Vision welcomed 15-year-old Anne to take on the role of National Director in Mali for a full day. This Takeover reaffirmed our joint commitment with [Joining Forces](#) partners to amplifying the voices of girls, promoting gender equality and putting them at the heart of decisions that shape their future.

[How It happened>>](#)



Programming Excellence: World Vision has been honoured with two prestigious awards for its unwavering commitment to improving educational opportunities for children and promoting gender equality and social inclusion throughout Sierra Leone.

[Learn Why>>](#)

Season's Greetings from our Regional Leader

Joy, peace, and warm wishes from us to you

On behalf of World Vision staff from West and Central Africa, our Regional Leader, Carla Dominique Denizard, extends warm holiday greetings and heartfelt wishes for joy, peace, and hope this season. Her message of gratitude and celebration reflects the collective impact we have achieved together with partners, donors, and supporters from the region and around the world.



Looking Back on a Year of Plenty

Collaborating and advocating to leave no one behind



Water flows in Burkina Faso's peri-urban area of Roumtenga

In February 2024, World Vision and its partners [officially launched](#) an urban programme in Burkina Faso with a view to promoting fairer, more inclusive cities where children thrive. In Roumtenga, where host communities and households displaced by insecurity have been living for several months, World Vision has addressed a critical challenge by prioritising water infrastructure to improve access to basic drinking water for community well-being. Since launching the urban programme, World Vision has helped more than 17,000 people (including more than 12,000 children), gain access to clean water. The programme has also provided access to basic sanitation to more than 5,000 people and supported over 59,000 people to adopt healthy hygiene behaviours.

[Learn How>>](#)



Journeying towards total inclusion in Mauritania

A World Vision survey conducted in June 2024 revealed that more than 2,000 children within our 13 zones of operation in Mauritania are living with a disability. This exercise, whose purpose was to pave the way for targeted actions for World Vision to improve disability inclusion in its programming, further revealed that only 216 of these children (or 10.5%) are currently enrolled in World Vision's sponsorship programmes. With this data and in partnership with the National Federation of People Living with Disabilities, World Vision is laying the foundations for an inclusive future through the Aghorat programme. Through awareness raising and education, this partnership has created momentum towards a Mauritanian society where everyone, regardless of ability, has a place and can contribute.

[Learn How>>](#)



Celebrating 15 years of impact in Kaffrine, Senegal

Fifteen years ago, World Vision began multidimensional development work in Mabo and Diokoul (Kaffrine) in Senegal. As the programme came to an end in July 2024, World Vision celebrates notable achievements that include various advancements in health, education, and women's empowerment through microfinance access. Hear from the implementing World Vision team, as well as community members, including children, on the transformation that they have witnessed throughout this journey and why they are optimistic about the future



A groundbreaking initiative to reduce emissions in Ghana

In August 2024, World Vision partnered with Vivo Energy to launch a groundbreaking project aimed at reducing carbon emissions and improving health outcomes, particularly for women in rural areas in Ghana. Called the Eco-Flame Project, the initiative will introduce energy-efficient cookstoves to women in the East Gonja District of the Savannah Region. The project is set to train over 200 women in the use of eco-friendly cooking methods, contributing significantly to environmental sustainability, increased savings, and improved health.

[Learn More>>](#)

On the path to zero child hunger and malnutrition in Sierra Leone

As part of World Vision's commitment to end child hunger and malnutrition everywhere we work through the ENOUGH Campaign, World Vision rolled out a cash transfer initiative that supported over 500 vulnerable households in the remote region of Mongo in Sierra Leone earlier this year. Join Sagane Thiaw, National Director for World Vision in Sierra Leone, as he speaks with parents from some of these households on what it means for them to have the resources to provide enough nutritious food for their children.



Children in the Central African Republic speak out on nutrition

In the Central African Republic, malnutrition remains a pressing concern, with a significant portion of the population, especially children, facing food insecurity and inadequate access to nutritious meals. Twenty children aged between 12 and 18 spoke candidly about the fight against malnutrition and the importance of healthy meals at the country's first children's Nutrition Dialogue workshop. The workshop, hosted in November 2024 by World Vision in Bangui, provided a platform for children to share their diverse perspectives, ideas, and potential actions to improve nutrition in their community. This pivotal event highlighted the importance of engaging children in combatting malnutrition and shaping future strategies.

[Read More>>](#)



Advancing advocacy for and with West Africa's children: Turning progress into promise

In 2024, the ENOUGH Campaign united West Africa in the fight against child hunger and malnutrition, sparking transformative change across the region. From sustainable school feeding programmes to a groundbreaking child marriage ban, bold advocacy efforts are giving children the chance to thrive. Yet, with millions still displaced and malnutrition on the rise, the battle is far from over. As 2025 approaches, discover how nations are doubling down on justice, hope, and sustainable solutions for every child.

[Learn More>>](#)

Responding to Emergencies

Supporting children, families and communities at severe risk



Breaking the silence: Sudanese women's heartbreaking stories from Chad

A forgotten crisis is unfolding in the borderlands of Chad, where the arid landscape stretches for miles. Every week, thousands of women, having survived the brutal ravages of conflict in Sudan, cross into neighbouring Chad, driven not only by the horrors of conflict but also by the sexual violence that has become a weapon of conflict. For many women fleeing Sudan, the decision to leave everything behind is not merely a matter of survival; it is a desperate bid to escape a cycle of violence that has only worsened as the conflict escalates. In refugee settlements like those in Adré, eastern Chad, World Vision is actively supporting Sudanese survivors of gender-based violence, offering a range of specialised programmes designed to provide immediate assistance, long-term recovery, and protection. [Read Article>>](#)



Bringing smiles to children in Burkina Faso's flood-affected communities

Committed to reducing the vulnerability of populations affected by flooding in the North and Centre-North regions of Burkina Faso, World Vision is implementing multi-sectoral response efforts in collaboration with ACTED, and with funding from Start Fund. This response has enabled the setting up of several mobile child-friendly spaces that have reached more than 2,700 children, helping them to keep up with school activities and overcome difficulties at the beginning of the school year. [Read More>>](#)

Impact Horizons

Exploring innovative approaches to achieve broader impact



From manual to mobile: Digitising women's savings in Ghana

As part of its [Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments \(THRIVE\) 2030](#) ambition, World Vision is leveraging the use of technology to create standardised financial tracking, facilitate auditing, support financial literacy, and provide a clear financial history for women's savings groups in Ghana. Through THRIVE 2030, World Vision is supporting savings groups in 12 operational areas across the country to digitise their savings activities through the Dream Save application; a mobile-based financial tool that enables members to overcome data entry errors and the challenges of manual record-keeping, while streamlining the savings process.

[How It Works>>](#)



Health, dignity and social inclusion in Burkina Faso

Recognised for its expertise in water, hygiene and sanitation, World Vision continues to mobilise communities to work together to build resilient, efficient, accessible and safe water and sanitation services for all. Interventions such as Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines at schools take gender and inclusion into account by separating latrines into sections for girls, boys and people with disabilities. For Noura, a second grade student, this represents the end to students being exposed to numerous infections and risks of abuse and sexual violence, especially for young girls.

[Learn More>>](#)



Exploring the dynamics of child marriage in rural Sierra Leone

Child marriage has long been a significant problem in Sierra Leone, with detrimental effects on female education, maternal mortality rates, and the perpetuation of poverty. Effective policies, measures and social behaviour change initiatives are critical to ending child marriage and promoting healthy adolescent development in rural Sierra Leone. World Vision's new report, *"Exploring the Dynamics of Child Marriage in Rural Sierra Leone: A Qualitative Study of Socioeconomic & Cultural Implications"*, highlights the urgent need to address child marriage, and recommends targeted interventions that address the root causes and promote children's rights.

[Read Report>>](#)



The knock-on benefits of savings groups through a Mauritanian mother's eyes

To Mollé, a mother in Mauritania, World Vision's introduction of savings groups in her community has been "a life-changing experience". Before savings groups were introduced in her village, she struggled to make ends meet. Despite her best efforts, Mollé lacked the resources to pursue her true passion, sewing, which for her remained a distant and unattainable dream. With a small loan, she has not only achieved this dream, but has gone further to purchase a solar panel that is benefitting her entire community.

[Read Her Story>>](#)

Partnership Spotlight

Working together to end child vulnerability for good

No organisation or government working alone can solve child vulnerability. World Vision's partners include governments, civil society organisations, faith communities, faith-based organisations, businesses, academia, and more. In this edition, discover some of the impact that World Vision is making through our collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in communities across West and Central Africa.



Central African Republic

Youth empowerment represents a fundamental element of long-term economic and social development. In collaboration with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, World Vision has initiated a project to train and equip young people in Bambari, Central African Republic as part of a larger project to strengthen livelihoods and community assets for conflict-affected communities in the region. The long-term ambition is to promote the economic recovery of the local population by providing skills and employment opportunities for young people.

[Learn More>>](#)



Senegal

Awarded the USAID-funded Governance for Local Development Plus (GoLD+) programme in Senegal earlier this year, World Vision will collaborate with six local organisations to strengthen the capacity of local governments to mobilise resources and provide public services that are high-quality, accessible, and equitable for citizens. Over the next four years, GoLD+ will operate in six regions across the country: Kolda, Sédhiou, Kédougou, Tambacounda, Ziguinchor, and Dakar.

[Learn More>>](#)

Young Perspectives

Contributions from children and youth in our region



Listening to the future

World Vision believes that every child has the right to grow up healthy, safe, and empowered. Essentials like nutritious food, education, protection, safety, identity, and the chance to participate in decisions that affect them are fundamental children's rights—they should not be a luxury. On this year's International Children's Day (20 November), World Vision heard from children across West and Central Africa regarding their fundamental rights, in line with the 2024 global theme, "Listen to the future. Stand up for children's rights".



As young people of our country, we believe in a future where no child goes to bed hungry or undernourished. We urge all actors in our society to support this mission, educate our communities and work for a healthier and stronger future.

Arielle, a children's representative, as part of her speech at the launch of World Vision's ENOUGH Campaign in the Central African Republic.

[Continue Reading>>](#)



I never knew I could make the materials so beautifully on my own. The first shirts I made for my younger siblings were my source of motivation!

Florence (18), formerly sponsored by World Vision, on her tie/dye training experience as part of a World Vision vocational skills programme in Ghana.

[Continue Reading>>](#)

Vision Voices

Insights on life at World Vision from our dedicated teams



My greatest joy comes from seeing the positive impact of my work on the lives of community members. After a decade of impact with World Vision, I can recall the feeling of satisfaction during the moments when my team hands over completed projects and when we witness firsthand the gratitude and transformation of the people we serve. My motivation for continuing to work at World Vision stems from my belief in making a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable children and communities. I find inspiration the organisation's Christian values and the opportunity to spread the love of Christ through my work.

Christopher Teye - Area Programme Manager, Ghana

[Watch Video:](#) Hear from Christopher and other inspiring members of the World Vision team on their humanitarian calling.

Join us to serve children!



Visit our [careers page](#) for the latest vacancies and discover how you can play a part in making a lasting impact for children and their communities.

Latest Publications

Click on each publication to learn more

- [Fact Sheet: Resilience in West & Central Africa](#) (English)
- [Profile: World Vision in West & Central Africa](#) (English)
- [Burkina Faso YES Project Overview](#) (English)
- [Central African Republic Humanitarian Response Update](#) (English)
- [Sierra Leone CP-ADAPT Assessment Report 2024](#) (English)
- [BIDDEW Newsletter \(Senegal\) - September 2024 Issue](#) (French)
- [Feature on the International Day of Education in Niger](#) (French)
- [Overview: The Power of Universal, Inclusive and Sustainable School Meals](#) (English)
- [Two Years On: Global Hunger Response](#) (English)



Did You Know?

Malnutrition costs the global economy **over US\$1.6 trillion annually** in lost productivity and potential. This significantly impacts on girls' lives, education, future earnings, and likelihood to experience violence and stress.

Upcoming Events



Nutrition Dialogues with Children:

2025 is a significant year for nutrition - it is the final year of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition; the World Health Organisation will renew its global nutrition targets, and the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) will take place in Paris in March 2025. The Nutrition Dialogues programme offers you a way to amplify the voices and needs of women and children in your community through Stakeholder Dialogues & Children's Workshops. Join this global push to unite people for the meaningful exploration of the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all.

Learn more [here](#).

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