

Call to Action

for the 12th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific



Sixty percent of the world's population lives in Asia-Pacific, which also accounts for half of global severe food insecurity. Women and children are disproportionately affected, with poor nutrition impacting growth, health, and development. Despite progress in Goal 3, barriers to healthcare remain, including high costs and slow improvement in health worker density. Data gaps hinder tracking violence against children (Goal 16), child labour (Goal 8.7), gender-based violence and early marriage (Goal 5). Additionally, financial resources for statistical capacity (Goal 17) and climate action (Goal 13) are regressing.

Urgent multi-stakeholder action is needed to address child rights and well-being. World Vision puts forward these five key recommendations for multi-stakeholder action:

1 Children are listened to, and their perspectives are reflected within the SDGs and policy-making processes

All governments should ensure social accountability in the implementation of the SDGs, particularly by making sure that children's voices are heard and actively integrated into policy-making processes at both the national and local levels. Child-led, evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs should be encouraged, with children representatives from all marginalized groups, and included in the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and policy-making processes. This should ensure they are recognized as equal partners in shaping policies that directly impact their futures. The private sector should also invest in child participation in these processes because this will also help in shaping the future workforce and in understanding future market consumers.

2 Meaningful collaboration between government, civil society and communities for improving monitoring systems for the SDGs

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**LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND**

3 Continue to strengthen health and nutrition systems

Governments are enjoined to maintain good progress on reducing maternal and child mortality, while improving efforts for community health workforce—especially addressing health worker density—and provision of free and affordable health services. These will help expand the reach and accessibility of services, ensuring that every child, especially the most vulnerable, has access to the care they need. Address the higher levels of malnutrition and other health concerns faced by certain groups, such as women, girls, and persons with disabilities, due to discriminatory norms, practices, and legislation.

4 Scale up efforts and financing to support progress on Goals 13 (Climate Action)

National governments and donors must commit new and coordinated additional funding to achieve the SDG targets where Asia Pacific is regressing, particularly Goal 13 (Climate Action). Climate change is tied to migration issues, which make children more vulnerable. Governments have the key role in ensuring community resilience to climate change through infrastructure and livelihood support, and to protect children and their families who migrate by improving labor standards and registration systems for migrants. Initiatives to protect children left behind by migrant parents should include providing assistance programs to their caregivers, and ensuring that the children receive educational, emotional and social learning support.

5 Gender Transformative Policies

Governments need to enact gender transformative policies and programs to address the root causes of gender inequalities and malnutrition and go beyond addressing women and girl's nutrition not just limited to their reproductive role. Girls who have better nutrition are more likely to stay in school and have a lower risk of teenage pregnancy or early marriage. There is also a need to enhance gender-disaggregated data to make sure that women and girls' unique vulnerabilities and needs are considered in further policymaking, especially for eliminating their risk of violence.



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Serving Asia Pacific's most vulnerable children and communities for 75 years. Last year, World Vision programmes reached more than 12.2 million people, including girls and boys, in the world's most disaster-prone region.