

# World Vision's ongoing commitment to children with disabilities

*An update on commitments made in February 2022 and new commitments for the Global Disability Summit in April 2025*



Working in around 100 countries with 34,000 staff worldwide, World Vision is making bold commitments to children with disabilities. Inspired by our Christian faith, we respond to the needs of the most vulnerable girls and boys around the world, and their families.

World Vision knows that helping vulnerable girls and boys must include children with disabilities. That's why World Vision works with partners to support children with disabilities through its health, education, livelihoods, child protection and emergency programmes, across the world.

## Progress on our 2022 commitments

1. Help more than **five times** the number of children with disabilities in our long-term programmes **by 2026**.

**By September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, WV was serving 3.12 times the number of children it was serving in February 2022. More growth is anticipated through sponsorship programming.**

2. Train all staff on disability inclusion so they can support persons with disabilities in all the communities where we work.

**More than 4,000 staff have been trained on disability inclusion by using the Travelling Together module, about 12% of the total staff of WV globally. We also trained more than 18,000 community volunteers in Rwanda alone. More work needs to increase staff capacity.**

3. Improve the situation for persons with disabilities by working with persons with disabilities, organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), government and non-government organisations to find ways to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. We will share new ideas with everyone.

**In Malawi alone we are working with 21 partners. In another 37 WV offices responding to a questionnaire, they had partnered with 110 groups and organizations. We share studies and conduct webinars and presentations to share our learning.**

4. Make sure we work with both boys and girls, and men and women with disabilities so they can achieve the same outcomes as other participants.

**All 37 offices responding are collecting disaggregated data on disability. WV will continue to enhance data use to improve our programs.**

5. Give power to children and adults with disabilities to take part in their communities and take on leadership and decision-making roles.

**15 of the 37 responding offices empowered 18,000 children & adults with disabilities within advocacy programs. In Malawi, children with disabilities submitted their demands to the Minister of Gender in July 2024.**



We also committed to work in each of 2022 Summit's priority areas:



6. **Inclusive Education** – All WV core education programmes will include Universal Design for Learning in our materials, training for teachers, and in our quality assurance tool.

**Universal design for learning has been incorporated in materials, teacher training and the MEQA quality assurance tool used for education programming. We continue to invest in accessible learning materials and are rolling out a learning passport (see image) to empower children with disabilities to reach their learning goals.**

7. **Inclusive Health** – WV will bring in training for disability identification and referral into our core health programmes and teach health providers to be inclusive. These models can reach **180,000** community health workers each year.

**WV worked with SPOON Foundation to include disability screening, identification and referral into the Positive Deviance/Hearth Plus nutrition program model. Lessons learned will be incorporated into work with Ministries of Health on growth monitoring and promotion in 26 countries. More than 100,000 children in 20 countries are screened for disability annually. WV is also promoting inclusive health provision among community health workers and other health service providers.**

8. **Strengthening engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs)** - All our programmes designed in partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities or in consultation with children and adults with disabilities

**All 37 of the responding offices are in partnership with OPDs in respective countries and new planning guidelines emphasize the importance of engaging with OPDs in planning processes.**

9. **Inclusive livelihoods and social protection** – By 2030, our youth and livelihoods programmes will include youth and adults with disabilities and give them the skills and opportunities to achieve a decent living. **Guidance on disability inclusion for the youth and livelihoods programming and a guide for disability inclusion in agriculture has been completed.**



## New commitments

In honour of the 2025 summit, World Vision will add two more commitments:

**10. Water, hygiene and sanitation** - All sanitation facilities in schools and healthcare facilities constructed or rehabilitated by World Vision will be accessible for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities will be consulted for design of WASH facilities and meaningfully included in management of community-based WASH programmes such as water management committees.

**11. Safeguarding** - World Vision offices will use child-friendly safeguarding awareness materials that are accessible for all. We will share these tools with the wider aid sector to encourage greater and more inclusive safeguarding efforts.



For more information on our work on disability inclusion worldwide, please contact the co-chairs of the disability inclusion leadership team:

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