

World Vision

Goal Kickers

A snapshot of World Vision Australia's contributions
to the Sustainable Development Goals

‘World Vision is a community of Goal Kickers. We are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a safer and more sustainable world for children everywhere.’

– Claire Rogers, CEO, World Vision Australia

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Front cover: World Vision staff member Florence Mulenga jumps with children in Hamunyanga Village in Zambia, where World Vision capped the spring there and put taps throughout the village for both drinking and watering gardens.

Jon Warren/ © 2015 World Vision

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World Vision provides water access to rural communities in Afghanistan.

World Vision is a community of Goal Kickers

World Vision Australia is the largest international development NGO in Australia. We work globally and in Australia, implementing development programs to empower marginalised and vulnerable communities and responding to emergencies to help keep these communities safe.

We are committed to keeping and championing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals because they are central to achieving our vision for every child: 'Life in all its fullness'.

'The Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious, but they are not dreams. They are goals – and we can make them happen.'

– Claire Rogers, CEO, World Vision Australia

The Sustainable Development Goals are core to our work

In September 2015, 193 countries committed to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within the next 15 years.¹

They are a set of global goals for the world to achieve by 2030, including to:

- eradicate extreme poverty for all people, everywhere
- ensure that all girls and boys get to go to school
- increase wealth for the world's poorest countries and communities
- end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- end all forms of violence against children.

There are 17 goals and 169 targets in total, all centred around people, the planet and prosperity.

The Sustainable Development Goals apply to all countries, including Australia.

Although all countries are responsible for implementing the Goals, not all are in the same starting position. Some countries – such as least developed countries, small island developing states and states in conflict or post-conflict situations – face compounding challenges that make the Goals more difficult to achieve.

As a 'lucky' country with a growing economy, Australia has a responsibility to not only achieve these Goals domestically, but also to do its fair share to help other countries achieve them and reap their benefits. By sharing knowledge, capabilities, resources and technology, Australia can be a leader of sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region and help make our region more prosperous.

Children are at the centre of our approach

World Vision Australia believes that children are central to sustainable development.

The fundamental principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is to 'leave no one behind' and to reach those who are furthest behind. For World Vision, this drives us to work with vulnerable children in the world's most fragile contexts so that the rights of every child, everywhere, will be fulfilled.

Through our transformational development, girls and boys of all backgrounds, ethnicities, abilities, and beliefs are valued, listened to, included and nurtured.

More than half of the Sustainable Development Goals directly relate to children and young people. However, all the Goals, whether directly or indirectly, are linked to child well-being. A child who is six years old in 2018 will reach adulthood by 2030, when the Goals are due to be achieved. Today's children are the next generation of leaders who will transform nations tomorrow – we cannot leave them behind.

As a child-focused organisation, World Vision believes that sustainable development begins with healthy, nourished and well-educated children, free from all forms of violence. The Sustainable Development Goals are an unprecedented opportunity to make these aspirations a reality, and that is why they are core to all of World Vision's development work, both in Australia and overseas.

We are making progress

It has now been three years since the Sustainable Development Goals were launched. Over this time World Vision Australia has actively championed the Goals through its programs in both Australia and internationally.

Globally, World Vision's work has impacted on the lives of over 200 million vulnerable children by tackling the root causes of poverty. Last year, 91% of the severely malnourished children we treated made a full recovery.

Today, our work is continuing to advance sustainable development for those who need it most.

- Every 30 seconds, a family gets water, a hungry child is fed, and a family receives the tools to overcome poverty.
- Every 10 seconds World Vision is reaching one new person with clean water.
- Every day World Vision is reaching four more schools with clean water.

This report highlights World Vision Australia's work to date to advance the Sustainable Development Goals most related to child well-being. These include: No Poverty (Goal 1); Zero Hunger (Goal 2); Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3); Quality Education (Goal 4); Gender Equality (Goal 5); Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6); Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8); Climate Action (Goal 13); Life On Land (Goal 15); Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16); and Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17).

For each of these child-specific Goals, this report:

- outlines World Vision Australia's approach to realising the Goal
- demonstrates through real-world examples how World Vision is being a Goal Kicker
- showcases what is working as well as our lessons learned so that other organisations, governments and businesses can join us as a movement of Goal Kickers.

We are kicking Goals in places from Malawi to Myanmar

World Vision Australia's work in sustainable development spans: food security programs in East Africa; livelihoods and resilience programming in fragile contexts; gender-based violence programs in the Pacific; and health and nutrition programs in South East Asia. This report explores these real-world examples in detail. Here is a snapshot of our work kicking goals on sustainable development.



Goal 1 No Poverty

- **World Vision's health and livelihoods project in Zimbabwe** implemented a holistic model to reduce poverty. This included establishing new mobile health centres and training more than 3,000 farmers to improve productivity and drought-resistance to reduce poverty, including child poverty.



Goal 2 Zero Hunger

- **World Vision's maternal, newborn and child health project in Myanmar** trained nearly 80,000 people in 115 villages in nutrition, childcare and ante-natal care. It also supported the treatment of more than 3,700 malnourished children.
- **World Vision's economic development project in Burundi** is improving the productivity of local high-iron bean crops and encouraging kitchen gardens to diversify family diets. The initiative reduced malnutrition and child stunting.



Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being

- **World Vision's maternal and newborn child health program in Malawi** helped nearly halve the number of registered malaria cases at local centres through education and by distributing insecticide-treated nets.
- **World Vision's health programming in Burundi** is helping protect children from HIV by training community health workers, increasing awareness about mother-to-child transmission of HIV and expanding access to HIV services.
- **World Vision's health projects in Papua New Guinea** are partnering with Colgate to distribute toothpaste and toothbrushes to children and pregnant women.



Goal 4 Quality Education

- **World Vision's early childhood development programs in the West Kimberley and East Pilbara regions of Australia** are increasing access to culturally-strong early learning services for Indigenous children through community-led, place-based playgroups.
- **World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces** are reaching more than 20,000 children affected by natural disasters and armed conflict, creating environments where they can have structured play, informal learning, and access to psychosocial support.



Goal 5 Gender Equality

- **World Vision's 'Every Last One' education project in Kenya** is changing attitudes toward female genital mutilation and forced and child marriage and helping protect 6,000 children from violence.
- **World Vision's community education project in South Sudan** is combating stigma against rape survivors and children born of rape, by working with community and faith leaders to change attitudes and behaviours.



Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

- **World Vision's water, sanitation and hygiene project in Ethiopia** improved water sources for nearly 20,000 people by constructing boreholes and raising awareness about sanitation, which significantly reduced open defecation and created a healthier and safer environment.



Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

- **World Vision's development program in the dryland areas of Kenya and Ethiopia** is helping more than 200,000 smallholder farmers better capture and use the little rainwater they receive to increase their incomes through improved yields, reducing pressure for child labour.



Goal 13 Climate Action

- **World Vision's innovative trial of 3,000 fuel-efficient cookstoves in Myanmar** is reducing emissions and improving indoor air quality by replacing open cooking fires with environmentally-friendly alternatives.



Goal 15 Life On Land

- **World Vision's reforestation project in Soddo, Ethiopia**, is regenerating or planting more than a million trees through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, increasing biodiversity, strengthening livelihoods and sequestering tonnes of carbon.



Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- **World Vision's project to reduce gender-based violence in the Pacific** is linking survivors to services and working with community and faith leaders to change negative attitudes about and towards women. Messages delivered through churches have been especially effective, with reported changes in behaviour towards violence against women and children.
- **World Vision's child participation and protection project in India** is reducing child trafficking by training children in personal safety and building the capacity of police and other first responders to identify and respond to threats.



Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals

- **World Vision's partnership with a social enterprise in South Africa** is protecting families and children from slum fires by installing an innovative fire-detection device in households. About 90% of households fitted with the device have not been destroyed by slum fires.

But there is still much more to do

World Vision Australia believes that the progress made so far on the Sustainable Development Goals can and should accelerate.

The last three years since the Goals were agreed have seen promising results, but there is much more to do to realise the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals for all by 2030.

This means implementing all the Goals in their entirety, including eliminating child poverty, improving child nutrition, ending child marriage, stopping preventable child deaths, eliminating violence against children, improving maternal and reproductive health, combating child mortality, and ending child labour and child trafficking once and for all. Underpinning these efforts should be a focus on championing gender equality, which is both a prerequisite and a pathway to achieving sustainable development, including child well-being.

Organisations like World Vision have a key role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but governments, businesses and individuals also need to do their part.

Achieving goals of this scope and scale require teamwork – across sectors and geographies. We all have a part to play.

The United Nations made a concerted effort to engage a range of actors in the negotiation and agreement of the Goals, and this multi-stakeholder collaboration must continue into implementation.

Non-profits like World Vision are increasingly using strategic technologies and new and innovative ways of working coming out of the private sector to create scaled impact. We are partnering with a range of organisations – from health corporations and airlines to social enterprises and software companies – to create shared value and a more sustainable world.

We invite businesses, governments and other organisations to join World Vision Australia in helping make the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality.

‘It is now time for commitments made to the Sustainable Development Goals to be turned into actions. Governments, businesses and NGOs all have key roles to play and, critically, we have an opportunity to work together in partnership.’

– Susan Anderson, Policy & Advocacy Director

Syrian refugee children in an informal settlement in Lebanon. World Vision provides Early Childhood Education, food assistance and water access to families living in the settlement.



World Vision Australia's contributions to the Goals

A student of Gumbo Two Basic School in Juba, South Sudan, which is one of three schools in the area that World Vision supports.

Goal 1

No Poverty



The aim of Goal 1 is to end poverty in all its forms, everywhere, by 2030.

Since 1990, nearly 1.1 billion people have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty.² Despite this tremendous progress, too many still struggle for the most basic human needs. In 2013, the year of the latest comprehensive data on global poverty, 767 million people lived below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per person per day. That is almost 11 people in every 100 in the world, or 10.7% of the global population.³

Goal 1 is a bold commitment to finish what we started: to end poverty in all forms and dimensions. It commits countries to eliminating extreme poverty among children, and to at least halve the number of children classified as living in poverty by national measures. This requires supporting the most vulnerable, increasing access to basic resources and services, and giving families the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

Reducing child poverty

Goal 1, ending poverty, is at the heart of World Vision's work. As a child-focused organisation, World Vision seeks 'life in all its fullness' for children, which can only be realised in a world without poverty. The consequences of poverty are far-reaching, long-lasting and intergenerational. People living in poverty lack the assets and resources to be able to access healthcare, education and other services for themselves and their families.

Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, as they represent half of the poor and are just one third of the total population. Around 19.5% of the world's children, or 387 million, live in extreme poverty compared to just 9.2% of adults.⁴

World Vision Australia recognises that poverty is multi-dimensional. It is not just limited to a low income, but also includes a lack of access to services and essential goods. It includes financial poverty, and also inequity of opportunity, health, education, information, protection and civic participation.

Recognising this, World Vision adopts a holistic approach to reducing child poverty by providing essential services and supporting local livelihoods, while also addressing social barriers that exclude communities (and groups within them) from economic empowerment. Further, as women are especially vulnerable to poverty and its disempowering effects, they are priority participants for World Vision's projects on workforce participation, education and skills training. This is an important strategy for World Vision because evidence shows that when women are stable financial contributors and when they take part in household decision making, investments in health and education for children increase and household poverty decreases.

A good example of this approach to poverty reduction and sustainable development is World Vision's health and livelihoods project in Zimbabwe, a five-year project that was funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This project involved establishing mobile health centres and training farmers in best practice techniques to reduce poverty and promote long-term economic equity to benefit the next generation.



Esnart and her children received goats and chickens from World Vision. Esnart is now a trainer of trainers in World Vision's savings groups and helps other mothers in Zambia to financially support their families.

Jon Warren/ © 2016 World Vision

Kicking Goals

Reducing child poverty in Zimbabwe

World Vision's health and livelihoods project in Zimbabwe combined goals of health, food security and increased household income into a holistic model to reduce poverty and its effects.

Context

Over the last decade, the political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe has hindered the country's development and led to an increase in child poverty and child mortality. In Zimbabwe in 2011, on average, 100 children under the age of five, as well as eight mothers, died each day from preventable causes.⁵ Currently 29% of Zimbabwean children are stunted and 17% are underweight for their age, due to the compounding challenges of poverty, poor access to healthcare (particularly among poor households and in rural areas), and chronic food insecurity for mothers and their children.⁶

Action

With funding from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Vision implemented a range of initiatives to improve children's health, food security and household incomes as part of a holistic model to reduce poverty in southwestern Zimbabwe.

Access to maternal, newborn and child health services was improved for more than 9,000 people by conducting home visits and by setting up mobile health centres to provide vaccinations and ante-natal check-ups. In addition, five Waiting Mothers' Shelters were constructed, providing a safe and medically-attended facility for mothers in their last weeks of pregnancy. The shelters were built to limit the need for home births and to help reduce infant mortality.

To strengthen food security and economic opportunities, World Vision trained more than 3,000 farmers in ways to improve farm productivity, set up six community-managed solar-powered irrigation schemes, facilitated access to seeds for more drought-resistant crops and developed demonstration plots, based on a detailed market analysis. This meant that crop production could continue during the dry season, effectively doubling opportunities for production and giving farmers the tools they needed to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Small groups, comprised primarily of women, were also set up to facilitate internal group savings, loans and micro-insurance within the group, to increase their resilience to economic shocks. As women began to be more involved in business activities, they were able to manage and improve their finances directly, often for the first time.

Results

- **Reduced poverty and significant increase in farming productivity:** Food availability and micronutrient diversity improved and household incomes increased. Two-thirds of farmers were unable to farm in the dry season before the project, compared to only one-fifth by the project's end.
- **Substantial reduction in infant mortality:** From 2013–2016 neo-natal mortality reduced from 6.8 to 1.3 per 1,000 live births and the rate of women giving birth in maternal facilities increased.
- **Improved food security:** Nutrition increased, breastfeeding improved, and rates of child stunting and underweight children were reduced in all locations.

Key takeaway

- **Poverty is multi-dimensional**, and holistic projects that target multiple areas of inequality – such as health, livelihoods and nutrition – are effective ways to reduce poverty.

Title

Matabeleland South Integrated Health and Livelihoods Project

Location

Zimbabwe

Duration

2012 – 2017

Primary SDG

Goal 1: No Poverty

Secondary SDGs

SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Health and Well-being; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

World Vision is training farmers in Zimbabwe to increase crop yield and productivity.

Margret Masanga/ © 2015 World Vision



Goal 2 Zero Hunger



‘The two most frequently used words in the Sustainable Development Goals are ‘for all’. We at World Vision work hard to ensure that those who are most disadvantaged benefit from sustainable development, especially children.’

– Dane Moores, Senior Economic Development Policy Advisor

The second Sustainable Development Goal is to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure that all people – especially children – have access to enough good-quality food to lead a healthy life.

Despite progress, more than 790 million people still lack regular access to adequate food, often because of environmental degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity.⁷ One in four children under the age of five still suffers from chronic undernutrition or stunted growth.⁸ And one person in every four still goes hungry each night in Africa.⁹

Goal 2 aims to achieve food security and, with it, end hunger in all its forms.

Improving child nutrition

World Vision is contributing to the Goal to end global hunger by 2030 through our work on child health and nutrition. Globally, World Vision treated more than 80,000 children for severe acute malnutrition in 2017, with 85.8% of those treated making a full recovery. Improving child nutrition is central to World Vision’s work because children who are well nourished can grow, develop and learn to their full potential.

In the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals to ‘leave no one behind’, World Vision Australia is intentional about reaching the most vulnerable children, with 100% of the children enrolled in our nutrition programs being identified as ‘most vulnerable’. Vulnerability factors that make children more likely to face undernutrition include extreme poverty, food insecurity and coming from indigenous or ethnic-minority backgrounds.

World Vision Australia addresses both the short- and long-term causes of hunger and food insecurity through a range of initiatives, including teaching farmers how to nurture their land, improving the quantity, diversity and safety of food, distributing micronutrient supplements, setting up community and health centres, enhancing the role of fathers in nutrition, and providing mothers and caregivers with the information they need to improve nutrition for their families and newborn children. Through a multi-pronged approach, World Vision Australia addresses both the immediate risks from malnutrition and its root causes, which are often related to poor food security, feeding and child care, harmful social norms, environmental degradation and limited health services.

Child survival projects focus on the first 1,000 days of life and base their strategies on World Vision’s ‘7-11’ approach, an evidence-based combination of seven interventions for pregnant and lactating mothers and 11 interventions for newborns and infants.

7 interventions for pregnant women

1. Adequate diet
2. Iron/folate supplements
3. Tetanus Toxoid immunisation
4. Malaria prevention and intermittent preventive treatment
5. Birth preparedness, healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy
6. Deworming
7. Access to maternal health services: Ante-natal and post-natal care, skilled birth attendance, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, infection screening

11 interventions for children under age 2

1. Appropriate breastfeeding
2. Essential newborn care
3. Handwashing with soap
4. Appropriate complementary feeding
5. Adequate iron
6. Vitamin A supplementation
7. Oral rehydration therapy/zinc
8. Prevention and care for malaria
9. Full immunisation
10. Prevention and care-seeking for acute respiratory infections
11. Deworming

In communities facing massive health vulnerabilities due to inadequate or inequitable services, World Vision works with local health structures to increase the number and skills of Community Health Workers, usually volunteers, who can promote ‘7-11’ to mothers in their homes. For example, World Vision’s maternal, newborn and child health project in Myanmar trained nearly 80,000 people in 115 villages in nutrition, childcare and ante-natal care and supported the treatment of more than 3,700 malnourished children.

Child survival strategies are found to be most effective when they are integrated with other community needs such as women’s empowerment (and the rights of women to healthy, spaced and planned pregnancies), nutrition (through food security and diversity), clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and improved household income through livelihoods. This technical crossover results in innovative and complex projects that, over the long term, significantly reduce hunger and malnutrition in a self-sustaining way. A good example of this is World Vision’s economic development project in Burundi, which is improving the productivity of local high-iron beans and encouraging kitchen gardens to diversify family diets and reduce malnutrition and child stunting.



Khant, 22 months old, is healthy and growing strong. His mother, Nyo, participated in World Vision’s Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programme in Myanmar while pregnant with Khant.

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Kicking Goals

Combating child malnourishment in Myanmar

World Vision's maternal, newborn and child health project in Myanmar trained nearly 80,000 people in 115 villages in nutrition, childcare and ante-natal care, while also improving family planning and sanitation.

Context

The Tanintharyi region in south-eastern Myanmar has high levels of malnutrition and waterborne diseases. Low rates of nutrition among women and children are compounded by limited access to care during, before or after childbirth, poor hygiene and scarce and low-quality water sources. Hand-dug wells dry out altogether or suffer from leaching sea water, especially in the drier months. This has resulted in high rates of under-nutrition, leading to premature deaths in many cases.

Action

In line with World Vision's '7-11' strategy, the project educated more than 100 villages in nutrition, childcare and ante-natal care, either directly through trained local community health volunteers or more generally at community health events. This project was funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Growth monitoring also took place, with over 3,700 children referred to specialist care for under-nutrition. The project encouraged local egg farmers to be part of the project by donating eggs to families where children had been identified with malnutrition.

To improve the quality and management of water, community groups built or restored around 40 water sources each year. Technical specialists from the project trained local masons in construction, a new skill which led to ongoing employment for many. Water storage and fibre membrane filters were installed in households to help families keep their drinking water pure, reducing rates of household diarrhoea.

Results

- **Treated and reduced malnutrition:** 3,794 malnourished children were treated as part of the project, and community health messages on nutrition, childcare and ante-natal care were shared with nearly 80,000 people in 115 villages to improve their health.
- **Better access to clean water:** In 2016–17 alone, 40 new water sources were constructed and an additional 36 existing water sources were rehabilitated.
- **Improved maternal and neo-natal care:** Working through village health committees, the project referred more than 500 women with pregnancy complications to specialist care and provided equipment to 15 health centres to improve the quality of birthing attendance.

Key takeaways

- **Sharing information on child health with government institutions** helped streamline the process when referral of individual children became necessary.
- **Partnering with the local community is essential**, especially when working with limited resources. In this case World Vision linked volunteers with local community-based organisations who were well placed to manage and incentivise a volunteer workforce.

Title

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition Project

Location

Myanmar

Duration

2014 – 2018

Primary SDGs

SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Secondary SDG

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Kicking Goals

Boosting food security and nutrition in Burundi

World Vision's economic development project in Burundi is improving the productivity of local high-iron beans and encouraging kitchen gardens to reduce malnutrition and child stunting.

Context

Burundi has one of the highest rates of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Poverty rates in Muyinga Province, where the project took place, were particularly high. At the start of the project, the stunting rate of children under five was 61%. Around 32% of children under five were also underweight.

Despite favourable conditions for agriculture, including good rainfall, Burundi has low agricultural productivity. This is a key contributor to the low incomes and high levels of malnutrition in the country.

Action

With funding from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the project aimed to reduce chronic malnutrition, especially for children under five, and improve food security among vulnerable households in Burundi's Muyinga Province. This included:

- **improving the agricultural productivity of high-iron beans** by providing technical training, market information and improving inputs such as seeds
- **promoting access to finances** by forming and strengthening savings groups
- **linking producers to markets** through farmer cooperatives
- **providing Vitamin A supplements** to children under five to reduce rates of malnutrition
- **setting up kitchen gardens** to reduce the cost and increase the diversity of local food; by the end of the project, 44% of households in the area had their own kitchen garden
- **establishing crèches** so that working families could leave their children supervised by a rotation of mothers who fed the children and shared information about good child nutrition practices.

In total, the project reached more than 3,700 farmers (59% of whom were women) and more than 20,000 children under the age of five.

Results

- **Reduced child malnutrition and stunting:** Chronic malnutrition, stunting and underweight prevalence among children under five reduced by 3%, 6% and 27% respectively, while the prevalence of all three increased in areas outside of the project by 21%, 5% and 1% respectively.
- **Improved nutrition-related behaviour:** Consumption of iron-rich food increased among children. A larger proportion of households with children under five also included vegetables from their kitchen garden in their children's diet two or more times a week.
- **Reduced poverty:** Approximately 81% of high-iron bean producers reported a steady increase in income, providing a pathway out of poverty.

Key takeaway

- **Supply and demand interventions can be powerful when combined** and, in this case, involved improving the supply of iron-rich and diverse food (beans and kitchen gardens) as well as changing people's knowledge and nutrition practices.

Title

Economic Development and Value Chain Project

Location

Muyinga Province, Burundi

Duration

2014 – 2017

Primary SDG

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Secondary SDGs

SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

World Vision is reducing child malnutrition and stunting through its nutrition programs in Muyinga province in Burundi.

Robert Coronado/ © 2015 World Vision



Goal 3

Good Health and Well-being



Goal 3 is about ensuring healthy lives for all, at every stage of life.

Over the last three decades, impressive advancements have been made in health. Between 1990 and 2015, child deaths from preventable causes more than halved.¹⁰ Maternal mortality also fell by 44% worldwide.¹¹ Over 6.2 million people were saved from malaria between 2000 and 2015, and new HIV infections fell by around 40% between 2000 and 2013.¹²

Despite this incredible progress, more than six million children still die before their fifth birthday every year.¹³ Every day around 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy or childbirth.¹⁴ These deaths can and should be avoided.

The Sustainable Development Goals make a bold commitment to stop the preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age and end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030. The aim is to achieve universal health coverage, and provide access to safe and affordable medicines and vaccines for all.

Improving child health

World Vision Australia affirms that all people should be well-nourished, protected from infection and disease, and have access to essential health services regardless of where they live. Good health is the foundation of a child's life. That is why we support proven, cost-effective solutions that improve children's health: immunisation, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, appropriate breastfeeding, oral rehydration to prevent death from diarrhoea, nutrition programs, hygiene education and birth attendant training. Worldwide, in 2016 and 2017, World Vision implemented more than 2,000 health projects in 61 countries, benefiting more than 18 million children.

Reducing child malnutrition and stunting

Globally, about one in four children under five years old are stunted.¹⁵ Stunting is measured by low height for age. It indicates chronic under-nutrition during the most critical periods of growth and development in early life, reducing a child's chance of survival and hindering their brain development.

World Vision has invested deeply in the global fight to end malnutrition and child stunting. In fact, during the last five years, 89% of the more than 250,000 severely malnourished children treated by World Vision and its international partners made a full recovery.



World Vision's maternal health programs focus on meeting the nutritional needs of children in their first 1,000 days of life.

Nick Ralph / © 2017 World Vision

From a life-cycle perspective, World Vision Australia knows that meeting a child's nutritional requirements is most crucial in the first 1,000 days of life, beginning with the period of pregnancy and ending with the child's second birthday. During this time, the child has increased nutritional needs to support rapid growth and development, is more susceptible to infections, and is totally dependent on others for nutrition, care and social interaction. World Vision focuses its child health interventions at this early stage of life, guided by our '7-11' approach which is an evidence-based combination of seven interventions for pregnant and lactating mothers and 11 measures for newborns and infants (as mentioned under Goal 2).

Improving maternal health and newborn care

Almost all maternal deaths occur in developing countries; however 80% of these deaths can be prevented by giving women access to basic healthcare.¹⁶

Around the globe, World Vision works with other organisations to improve care for mothers, both before the birth (ante-natal) and after the birth (post-natal) of their babies. This means helping communities to support women in remote areas achieve safe delivery. This includes home visits and monitoring to help women use health facilities.

A good example of this is World Vision Australia's health and nutrition project in Papua New Guinea, funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Through targeted household visits, the project trained parents and caregivers in family planning and the importance of breastfeeding, conducted medical check-ups on the health of newborns, and provided pregnant and lactating women with access to vital perinatal care, improving the health of more than 24,000 people.

Preventing and treating malaria

World Vision Australia is committed to fighting malaria until it is defeated. We work hard to ensure that all at-risk families – especially mothers and children under age five – sleep under long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed nets to protect them from being infected with malaria.

In World Vision's malaria projects, volunteers are trained to distribute long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets at community meetings or through household-to-household visits, and they also demonstrate net hang-up and provide information on how to reduce malaria risks. Not only do the nets stop malaria-carrying mosquitoes from biting people, they also kill mosquitoes that come into contact with them. Globally, in 2016 and 2017, World Vision distributed 11 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, preventing millions of families from infection.

World Vision also works to strengthen health systems to make sure that families have access to proper diagnosis, treatment and care. This involves identifying gaps in health services and helping to fill them, conducting rapid diagnostic testing at all levels of the health system, providing technical support and training in malaria case management for local health clinic staff, and supplying and monitoring the use of malaria drugs. Globally, in 2016 and 2017, World Vision enabled 1.1 million confirmed malaria cases to receive first-line antimalarial treatment.

In Chad, for example, World Vision carries out awareness campaigns to help families better understand malaria symptoms, and learn the value of sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets and how to reduce breeding grounds for mosquitoes. In Malawi, World Vision's health programs have helped nearly halve the number of registered malaria cases at local centres by distributing insecticide-treated nets and strengthening the health system (see case study).



Babies are weighed and monitored as part of World Vision's health and nutrition project in PNG.

Nick Ralph/ © 2017
World Vision

Combatting HIV and AIDS

The goal of World Vision's global HIV/AIDS strategy for 2015–2020 is 'zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination ensuring that all children enjoy well-being'. Through an integrated approach, World Vision is aiming to achieve a HIV-free generation of youth by, among other initiatives, offering services to all pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

World Vision, working with communities, faith leaders and their congregations, as well as government partners, has implemented projects on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission in 19 countries. There are four key components to this work.

- **Primary prevention of HIV** among women of childbearing age. This includes increasing awareness of the transmission and risks of HIV/AIDS and increasing the availability and use of HIV counselling and testing (especially with couples).
- **Prevention of unintended pregnancies** among women living with HIV, including increasing access to modern contraceptives and conducting sessions on family planning.

- **Preventing HIV transmission** from a woman living with HIV to her infant through home-based and community-based counselling, skilled birth attendance for delivery, HIV testing, and prolonged use of antiretroviral drugs during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.
- **Providing appropriate treatment, care and support** to women living with HIV through a family-based approach, which ensures that male partners and others are involved in the care and treatment of the mother and child. This includes training community volunteers to provide home-based follow-up and support services, such as breastfeeding support, male-partner and family counselling, referral for early infant diagnosis, and linking women to support groups.

Without treatment, the likelihood of HIV passing from mother-to-child is between 15% to 45%. However, antiretroviral treatment and other effective methods to prevent mother-to-child transmission, such as the ones listed above, can reduce this risk to below 5%.¹⁷

World Vision's health programming in Burundi is one example where we are increasing awareness about mother-to-child transmission of HIV and expanding access to HIV services in order to stop the infection from spreading.

Kicking Goals

Improving maternal health in Papua New Guinea

World Vision worked with communities in Papua New Guinea to improve the health of more than 24,000 people by increasing access to services for pregnant and lactating women and promoting good nutrition.

Context

Health challenges for mothers and their children in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are immense. For a population of more than 7 million, PNG has fewer than 400 doctors, with over 80% of them based in the capital Port Moresby.¹⁸ With 85% of the population living rurally, this means most mothers struggle to access care and general medical advice. Only 53% of births in PNG are attended by skilled health personnel.¹⁹ Consequently, maternal mortality remains high and health outcomes for pregnant and lactating women are poor. A staggering 48% of all children show signs of growth stunting.²⁰

Action

With support from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Vision worked with communities in the National Capital District, Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Madang and Morobe Provinces to improve the health of more than 24,000 people, with a focus on mothers, newborns and children under five.

Increasing access to essential health services was a key aspect of the project. Working in partnership with health systems, the project provided pregnant and lactating women with access to vital peri-natal care, and children and newborns received important health and nutrition monitoring and support. World Vision Community Health Resource Persons conducted household visits for immunisation and medical check-ups and led community awareness sessions to improve basic health knowledge. These provided parents with valuable information about everything from pregnancy care and newborn immunisation, through to family planning, breastfeeding and the treatment of infectious diseases. Husbands were encouraged to stay home for the visits, which resulted in more men being involved in family planning and health.

Increasing awareness of good health and nutrition was also a priority for the project. For example, World Vision worked with the local government to provide training in backyard gardening, which led to communities growing 43 types of vegetables and having more diverse and nutritious diets. The project worked with local communities to educate them about the importance of eating a balanced diet, often staging cooking demonstrations using locally-available ingredients. Working in partnership with Colgate Palmolive, the project also issued Colgate toothpaste and toothbrushes to school children during hand-washing demonstrations in schools, and provided pregnant women with baby bags, including a tube of Colgate toothpaste and a toothbrush.

Results

- **Reduced malnutrition:** There was a strong reduction in undernutrition and its symptoms (stunting and wasting). Appropriate breastfeeding increased in all locations measured.
- **Improved maternal health:** 200 people were trained as community health workers and birth attendants. More than 28,000 people were provided with access to essential medicine and treatments.
- **Better family planning:** According to surveys, both men and women increased their use of contraception and joint family planning, and men reported greater involvement in family health.

Key takeaway

- **Identify the highest impact interventions and prioritise them.** In this instance, World Vision identified that hundreds of babies could be saved if all mothers were supported to appropriately breastfeed for the first six months of life.

Title
Papua New Guinea Health and Nutrition project

Location
Papua New Guinea

Duration
2014 – 2017

Primary SDG
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Secondary SDGs
SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Kicking Goals

Saving lives from malaria in Malawi

World Vision's health programs in Malawi helped nearly halve the number of registered malaria cases at local centres by raising awareness, distributing insecticide-treated nets and strengthening the health system.

Context

Though eliminated in some parts of the world decades ago, malaria remains a significant health problem in Malawi. In Malawi's Dedza District, specifically the Chitundu community, World Vision implemented a malaria reduction program as malaria was the leading cause of death among both adults and children. However, only half of households in the area owned long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets to protect them from the bites of malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Action

More than 11,000 long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets were distributed, reaching every household in Chitundu. These nets provided two levels of protection: firstly, they formed a barrier to stop malaria-carrying mosquitoes from biting people; and, secondly, they killed mosquitoes that came into contact with the insecticide, helping to manage the local mosquito population.

As a complementary intervention, the project conducted anti-mosquito indoor residual spraying, which coated the walls and other surfaces of houses with an insecticide. This not only worked to control malaria but also killed other disease vectors like bedbugs. Around 11,000 households received the indoor residual spray in 2017. There was some scepticism in the community that spraying was part of a population control campaign, but these concerns were partially eased through collaboration with local church partners who reassured their congregations that chemical sprays had no effect on fertility.

Working with government health centres, the project also undertook mass, community-based malaria screenings and treatment campaigns. Malaria medication was also donated to local health centres to ensure continued supply. House-to-house anti-malaria campaigns encouraged adults and caregivers to seek treatment within 24 hours of the onset of every fever.

To combat malaria at a more systemic level, World Vision convened meetings between health service users and 40 health staff from the four centres to address gaps in malaria prevention, screening and treatment. In addition, village-based committees were set up to actively support and monitor implementation of resulting action plans, monitoring the use of malaria drugs received by all four centres and advocating for additional health staff.

Results

- **Reduced malaria rates:** The number of registered malaria cases at local centres nearly halved, declining from more than 7,000 in 2015 to 3,802 in 2017. The number of children experiencing fever and malaria-like symptoms also declined, and the proportion of households where all children under five years slept under treated nets increased from 4.5% in 2010 to 100% in 2017.
- **Stronger health system:** Due to community-based advocacy, the government recruited a new medical assistant and increased the availability of essential drugs, with no drugs reported out of stock in 2017.

Key takeaway

- **Short-term and long-term interventions can (and should) be pursued simultaneously.** In this example, direct, immediate interventions (such as distributing insecticide-treated nets) were complemented by initiatives to drive systemic change (such as awareness campaigns and health system reform).

Title

Malaria Prevention and Treatment in Dedza District, Malawi

Location

Malawi

Duration

2016 – 2020

Primary SDG

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Secondary SDG

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Kicking Goals

Protecting children from HIV in Burundi

World Vision's health programming in Burundi is helping protect children from HIV by training community health workers, increasing awareness about mother-to-child transmission of HIV and expanding access to HIV services.

Context

Burundi is one of the five poorest countries in the world.²¹ Tackling HIV/AIDS, and preventing mother-to-child transmission, is a major challenge. In 2016, Burundi had around 2,200 new HIV infections and 2,900 AIDS-related deaths.²² But there has been a lot of progress in recent years. Since 2010, new HIV infections have decreased by 54% and AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 49%.²³

Since 2016, Burundi has also been devastated by a malaria outbreak. More than 6.4 million cases of malaria were recorded between January and October 2017 alone.²⁴

Food insecurity continues to plague Burundi, where bad harvests and insufficient food diversity have led to malnutrition in three million children. More than 50% of children under five in Burundi are stunted.²⁵

Action

World Vision is working with partners implementing HIV/AIDS interventions in local villages to raise awareness of HIV prevention and increase access to HIV health services. Communities were offered voluntary counselling and testing and were trained in methods for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. Awareness of mother-to-child transmission and ways to prevent it increased from around 67% to around 96%. Faith leaders were also trained in advice and treatments for HIV/AIDS, and have now supported more than 200 people living with HIV/AIDS in their congregations.

Home visits were another key feature of the programming. More than 40 volunteers were trained in how to provide timed and targeted counselling to explain good health practices to mothers and promote awareness about family planning, birth spacing and maternal health services. Through these home visits, more than 1,200 pregnant and lactating women benefited from psychosocial counselling, while many more accessed maternal support from health care workers, some for the first time.

As part of a holistic approach, the program also improved water and sanitation by constructing five springs which provided more than 10,000 people with access to portable water in four communities. In addition, three sanitation facilities were built and seven hygiene school clubs for children were established to increase awareness of best-practice hygiene. To help combat the malaria crisis, the program provided mosquito nets to more than 3,200 households.

Results

- **Improved child health:** Essential vaccinations among children under two years increased from around 61% in 2014 to 99% in 2017.
- **Prevention of HIV transmission:** Training on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV helped in the birth of 72 healthy children. By the end of the project, more than 90% of parents or caregivers were aware of methods to prevent HIV transmission to children.

Key takeaway

- **Partnerships with local community organisations to magnify their impact,** such as local HIV/AIDS initiatives, can be just as (or even more) effective than introducing new programs.

Title

Health programming in Cuma Area Development Programme

Location

Muyinga, Burundi

Duration

2016 – 2020

Primary SDG

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Secondary SDGs

SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

World Vision is helping to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Burundi.

Achel Bayisenge/ © 2016 World Vision



Goal 4 Quality Education



Goal 4 aims for all girls and boys, by 2030, to have the opportunity to complete primary and secondary schooling.

In recent decades, there have been huge strides towards universal education. Worldwide, the number of children of primary school age who were out of school almost halved between 2000 and 2015.²⁶ According to the United Nations Development Programme, there has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and more girls are in school than ever before.²⁷

Nevertheless, today there are more than 150 million children aged three to five who do not have access to pre-primary education, including more than 80% of children in low-income countries.²⁸ Children from the poorest 20% households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those from the wealthiest 20% of households.²⁹ Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high. Globally, two-thirds of children – 68% or 262 million out of 387 million – will reach the last grade of primary school but will not achieve minimum proficiency levels in reading.³⁰

Goal 4 reaffirms that achieving inclusive and quality education for all is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development.

Lucy, a Grade 2 student in Kenya, receives access to quality education through World Vision programs.

Mark Nonkes/ © 2018 World Vision



Educating children for life

World Vision Australia aspires for all girls and boys to be 'educated for life'. This involves not only equipping children with core cognitive skills, but also building their emotional, social and essential life skills in order for them to reach their full potential. To do this, World Vision works with schools, families and communities to foster environments for learning so that children can thrive. In 2016 and 2017, World Vision internationally implemented more than 2,000 education programs in 63 countries, benefiting more than 10 million children.

Child education has many flow-on benefits through all stages of life. A study using data from 219 countries from 1970 to 2009 found that, for every additional year of education for women of reproductive age, child mortality decreased by 9.5%.³¹ Education also results in higher wages and economic growth, with each additional year of schooling equating to a 10% private rate of return.³²

Strengthening early childhood development

Early childhood lays the foundation for life-long learning. Research suggests that exposure to quality early learning programs is key to ensuring that all children have similar future opportunities, breaking the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.³³

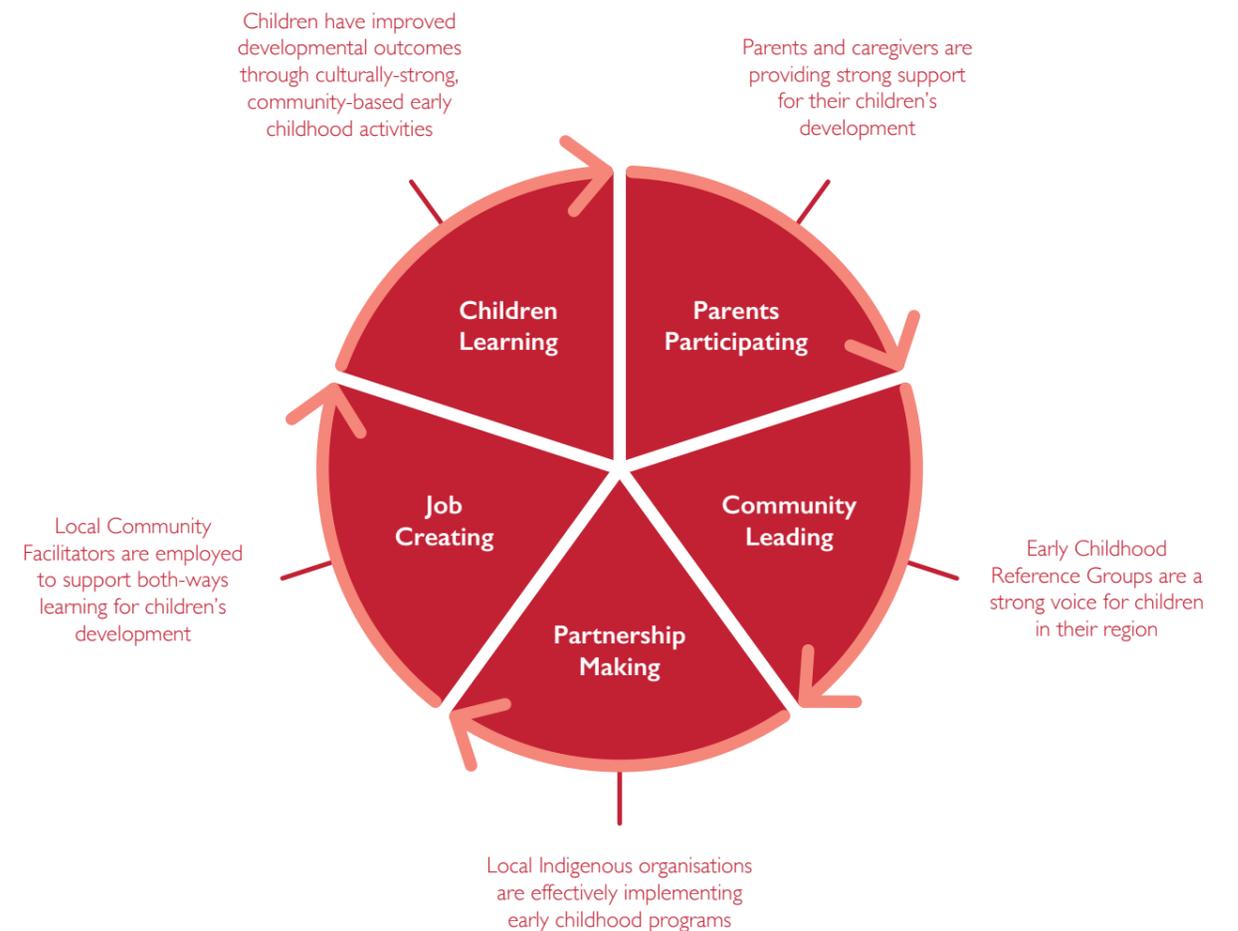
That is why World Vision prioritises early childhood education. Since 2010 World Vision has set up Early Childhood Development centres in the Herat, Ghor and Badghis provinces in Afghanistan. In these centres, children are given the opportunity to learn basic literacy, numeracy and life skills in a safe and friendly environment. Children of pre-school age are also prepared for primary education. As of 2016, almost 1,500 children had graduated from the centres, with 89% of the children who participated ready for school.

In Australia, World Vision has tailored and adapted its international experience in early and middle childhood for Indigenous children. Barriers to quality early learning opportunities mean that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia are 2.5 times more likely to be developmentally vulnerable at the age of five when they start school, compared to non-Indigenous children.³⁴ Through its Australia Program, World Vision Australia is delivering three early and middle childhood projects in the East Pilbara, Central Australia and West Kimberley regions, delivering culturally-strong playgroups for young children (see case study) and reading clubs for primary school children. Each of these playgroups and reading clubs is led by the community and is place-based in remote communities where the specific cultural needs and aspirations of each community are valued. Cultural elements for the children include bush trips, using local language in early literacy books and songs, and engaging in important cultural events.

In addition to providing a supportive and culturally relevant learning environment for Indigenous children, the playgroups provide opportunities for parents to socialise and learn about children's development. Local Indigenous women are also trained and employed as Community Facilitators, increasing employment opportunities.

This holistic approach (as illustrated by the figure below) contributes to a range of outcomes: young children learn; parents are equipped to be their child's first teacher; local women are trained and employed; and communities are brought together to make decisions that affect young children in their community.

World Vision's holistic approach to Indigenous early childhood development



Establishing Child Friendly Spaces

World Vision is reaching more than 20,000 children affected by natural disasters and armed conflict by setting up Child Friendly Spaces. They are safe learning spaces where children affected by emergency situations can have structured play, informal learning and access psychosocial support, while also interacting with other children and making friends. Child Friendly Spaces are a powerful way to contribute to Goal 4 in countries where violence or other humanitarian disasters have resulted in children missing out on several months or years of formal education.

The concept for Child Friendly Spaces was first introduced in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis. Children were unable to access formal schooling and there was no clear entry point to engage with community members on child protection issues. Child Friendly Spaces were established to fill the void. While these spaces are tailored to suit the needs of children living in different contexts, they have several aspects in common. These Child Friendly Spaces:

- are free, inclusive and non-discriminatory, open to boys and girls of different ages (3–17 years of age)
- provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment for children, helping them maintain or improve literacy, numeracy and other skills at times when formal education is often inaccessible
- enable children to safely express themselves through various activities like games, sport, dance, writing, drawing and colouring
- build on or strengthen existing structures, serving as a hub for sharing information about hygiene, life skills, security risks and how to access available children's services.

Child Friendly Spaces do not replace school learning, but rather act as a temporary measure for children who cannot go to school due to conflict or natural disasters. In fact, they not only empower children to continue their learning and development; they also enable World Vision to identify and reach out to children most at risk in the community, including unaccompanied and separated children; survivors of sexual abuse; former child soldiers; children with mental health challenges; child labourers; and children who have dropped out of formal education. World Vision can then refer these children to appropriate services.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where recent violence has seen hundreds of schools burned and many students recruited as child soldiers, World Vision is supporting approximately 4,000 children through six Child Friendly Spaces in collaboration with a local child development organisation. Importantly, staff use these safe spaces to identify children at risk and those with specific needs (including former child soldiers), connecting them with the services they need. This approach seeks to reintegrate former child soldiers into education and forge a pathway back into formal schooling to prevent them from returning to the frontlines of fighting.

In another example, World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces in Somalia have focused on helping children, especially girls, to build their confidence, self-esteem and social skills. Creative activities like storytelling, drama, dance and learning through play are combined with numeracy and literacy tasks, as well as sessions on life skills.

Going forward, World Vision Australia is aiming to expand the number of Child Friendly Spaces as part of our goal to increase our footprint in fragile contexts in order to reach the most vulnerable children.

Kicking Goals

Supporting Indigenous children, their families and community

Through community-driven, place-based playgroups and reading clubs, World Vision Australia is increasing access to culturally-strong early learning services for Indigenous children.

Context

Many Indigenous families living in remote communities in the West Kimberley and East Pilbara regions of Australia face significant barriers accessing culturally-strong early learning services for their children. These services are important, as many of these young children are considered developmentally vulnerable and are already at a disadvantage when they start school at age five. In 2015, the Australian Early Development Census found that 42% of Indigenous children are considered developmentally vulnerable.³⁵

Action

World Vision is helping reduce the early childhood development gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by facilitating place-based playgroups and reading clubs in 10 remote communities.

More than 530 community-driven, place-based playgroups and reading club sessions are delivered annually, providing a safe place for young children to learn and grow, as well as creating a supportive space for parents to expand their social network. Around 90% of children living in the communities have attended playgroups and reading clubs.

In addition to directly supporting child development, the project has equipped and empowered parents as their child's first teacher in their education journey. Local Indigenous women are trained and employed to facilitate playgroups and reading clubs in their community, which provides local employment and ensures that the sessions are culturally relevant. In all activities, Indigenous language and culture are actively promoted.

In addition, regional Early Childhood Reference Groups have been set up across 14 communities to operate as a local advocacy body and a strong voice for young children in their region.

Results

- **Improved child development:** More than 300 Indigenous children participated in playgroup across 10 remote communities, with 81% of parents surveyed saying that their child had benefited from participating in the playgroup.
- **Better parenting skills:** More than 226 caregivers participated in the playgroup sessions, with 85% of those surveyed concluding that the playgroup increased their ability to cope better as a parent.
- **Greater Indigenous employment:** 26 Indigenous women from within the communities were employed and engaged in training in early and middle childhood education.

Key takeaways

- **Tailoring to the local context and involving the local community is just as important in domestic community development** as it is in international situations. Employing local Indigenous women as playgroup facilitators ensured that the early childhood service was culturally safe and relevant for families.
- **Choosing the right space and place is essential** for community projects. Social isolation can exist even in small communities, which highlights the importance of a neutral space (playgroup) where families can come to sit, talk, discuss and resolve issues.

Title

Australia Program
Early and Middle
Childhood Technical
Program

Location

East Pilbara, Western
Australia

West Kimberley,
Western Australia

Central Australia,
Northern Territory

Duration

2009 – Present

Primary SDG

SDG 4: Quality
Education

Secondary SDGs

SDG 10: Reduced
Inequalities; SDG 17:
Partnerships for the
Goals

Playgroup provides a safe space for Indigenous children to learn and play.

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Goal 5

Gender Equality



Goal 5 aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.

Globally, an average of one in three women has experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence.³⁶ Around 49 countries still lack laws protecting women from domestic violence, while 39 bar equal inheritance rights for daughters and sons.³⁷ On almost every global indicator, women are more economically excluded than men.³⁸ Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18 – that is 28 girls every minute, one every two seconds.³⁹

Ending discrimination based on gender is not only a basic human right; it is also crucial to accelerating sustainable development. It has been proven time and again that empowering women and girls has a multiplier effect, benefiting whole communities.

Isata, age 12, enjoying time with her classmates in Sierra Leone.

Alex Whittle/ © 2018 World Vision



Championing gender equality

Addressing gender equality and discrimination is one of the key platforms of World Vision Australia's work. At World Vision, we believe that equal partnership between women and men is foundational for strong families and societies, and fundamental for sustainable development.

World Vision Australia adopts a community-wide approach to championing gender equality and reducing discrimination against women and girls. We believe that entire communities — women, girls, men and boys — are needed to end injustice and stop discriminatory practices. We tackle this issue at a local and international level through our advocacy and development programs in a range of sectors, including resilience and livelihoods; water, sanitation and hygiene; preventing gender-based violence; education; health; and faith and development. This multi-faceted approach recognises that there is not one pathway alone for achieving gender equality.

In Afghanistan, for example, World Vision Australia is supporting women leaders and helping to create a safe and supportive environment for them to participate in civil and political activities. The project works with Mullahs (religious leaders) to support them to speak publicly and promote women's political and civil empowerment and rights, and has set up women's shura (advisory councils) to lead practical change in communities.

In South Sudan, World Vision is helping reduce stigma against rape survivors and children born of rape by working with community and faith leaders to change attitudes and behaviours (see case study). This involves working with Christian pastors, women's representatives and youth leaders to develop individual advocacy plans and strengthen referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence.

'Equality – especially gender equality – is at the heart of sustainable development. World Vision is committed to working alongside women and girls everywhere to help them achieve their full potential.'

– Claire Rogers, CEO, World Vision Australia

Economically empowering women

Women make up more than half the world's population. However, they are disproportionately affected by poverty. Economically empowering women is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

There is a growing recognition that women's economic empowerment is critical to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals, not just Goal 5 on gender equality. Research has found that increasing women's economic empowerment results in social returns beyond the immediate economic benefits. When women are stable financial contributors to a household, investments in health and education for children increase and household poverty decreases.⁴⁰ According to McKinsey Global Institute (2015), if women could achieve their economic potential, up to USD 26 trillion could be added to the global GDP in 2025.⁴¹

However, the economic barriers that women face are immense: fewer resources, less access to market services and information, and harmful social norms that limit the roles of women in society.

World Vision Australia is working to break down these barriers so women can benefit from greater involvement in the economy. In Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, for example, World Vision is assisting families – with a focus on women – to better participate and benefit from agricultural production. These projects are empowering women economically through new skills, knowledge and connections into markets. The projects are also focused on challenging harmful gender norms by engaging men.

Ending female genital mutilation; and child, early and forced marriages

Goal 5 specifically calls out the need to eliminate all harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation; and child, early and forced marriages.

Female genital mutilation, also known as cutting and female circumcision, is a life-threatening procedure that involves the partial or total removal of the external genitalia of women or girls. It is internationally recognised as an extreme violation of rights. Nevertheless, in many cultures, female genital mutilation is a traditional practice often carried out in childhood or adolescence as a rite of passage into womanhood or as a prerequisite for marriage, even though it has no medical purpose and no religious justification in either Christianity or Islam. After undergoing the procedure, many girls don't return to school, becoming child brides and child mothers instead.

Global figures suggest that a girl's genitals are cut every 10 seconds, the majority of whom are under 15 years old.⁴² So far, more than 200 million girls and women in 30 countries have been subjected to the practice, according to UNICEF.⁴³

World Vision is committed to ending female genital mutilation and child marriage, especially through our projects in sub-Saharan Africa where genital cutting is most prevalent. For instance, in Chad, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision has trained faith leaders to speak openly against cultural practices which harm children. In Kenya, for example, World Vision is working closely with its partners in 17 identified hot spots for early marriage and female genital mutilation to develop safe and alternative rites of passage for girls, support survivors to attend school, and to train community members to better protect children at risk (see case study). This also involves working with circumcisers to develop alternative forms of employment and setting up accountability groups to discourage one another from returning to old practices.

Kicking Goals

Preventing female genital mutilation in Kenya

The project is helping to protect around 6,000 children in Kenya's West Pokot County from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence, including female genital mutilation and forced and child marriage.

Context

Female genital mutilation has been banned in Kenya since 2011; however, 21% of girls were still cut in 2014.⁴⁴ In Sook, Marich Pass and Orwa in Kenya, where this WorldVision project was implemented, female genital mutilation was under-reported. According to a survey that was undertaken before the project started, less than half of caregivers (48.1%) said they would report if a child was harmed. The school drop-out rate of girls, which is a strong indicator of child marriage and female genital mutilation, was 34% in Sook, 13.5% in Marich Pass and 6.4% in Orwa.

Action

WorldVision set up safe houses (dedicated dormitories and classrooms) in Kenya to protect girls at risk of female genital mutilation and the inevitable child marriage that followed. These safe houses enabled at-risk girls to continue their education in a safe environment. WorldVision also worked with the provincial government to reconcile these girls with their parents following training on the effects of genital mutilation.

More than 20,000 children and adults have benefited from the project, which also included:

- **Alternative rites of passage:** Girls and boys were educated in the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and instead celebrated alternative rites of passage during the December school break, a customary time for girls to undergo the practice.
- **Education and income support:** Scholarships were provided to support survivors of abuse to attend school. Reformed circumcisers received livestock or other income support to replace their income stream from female genital mutilation.

- **Training and prevention:** Parents, teachers, local leaders and law enforcement officers were trained to work together to protect children, and were encouraged to make public declarations against female genital mutilation. Radio talk shows and faith leaders were engaged to influence community attitudes.

Results

- **Attitudes partially changed:** Some cultural leaders, such as the Pokot Council of elders, joined in the fight against female genital mutilation and actively participated in raising community awareness. However, discrimination against many uncircumcised girls remains.
- **Better child protection:** The government listened to advocacy calls and recruited child officers in every Kenyan district to help in the prosecution of child abuse cases, serving as a deterrent for circumcisers.
- **Faith-based groups mobilised:** Congregations have been involved in handling rescue cases of all forms of child abuse in the community because of faith leaders increasing their awareness.
- **Girl enrolment rates increased:** School enrolment rates for girls have increased and more girls are transitioning from primary level to high school and to universities. This is especially important given that there is often a correlation between female genital mutilation, child marriage and drop-out rates.

Key takeaway

- **Tailoring interventions to the local context is vital** and, in this case, involves recognising that female genital mutilation is often a rite of passage, so a safe, alternative rite of passage needs to be set up.

Title

Every Last One Through Education Scale up

Location

Kenya

Duration

2015 – 2018

Primary SDG

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Secondary SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



Virginia is the captain of her school's dancing club in Kenya, which performs at a range of events including at seminars on the effects of female genital mutilation.

Kicking Goals

Combating stigma against children born of rape in South Sudan

Through community education, World Vision is helping to reduce discrimination experienced by rape survivors and children born of rape by working with community and faith leaders to change attitudes and behaviours.

Context

South Sudan, the newest country in the world, has experienced years of civil unrest and violent armed conflict. Rape has been frequently used as a weapon of war, and survivors of rape and their children still experience discrimination and stigma.

Customary law is dominant in most of South Sudan. Traditional courts often condone child marriage, prevent women from owning or inheriting property, and tolerate gender-based violence. South Sudan was ranked 181st out of 188 countries on the 2015 United Nations Gender Inequality Index, which compares disparities between women and men.⁴⁵

Action

The project involved working with survivors of rape, children, youth and faith leaders in Yambio in South Sudan to change attitudes and improve access to support and services.

World Vision worked with and trained around 50 faith leaders from all denominations, 20 women leaders and their local organisations, and 120 youth partners using World Vision's Channels of Hope model. Using scripture as a basis for discussing gender equality, this approach empowered both women and men to celebrate gender roles with mutual respect and address social norms at the heart of gender-based violence and discrimination.

As part of the training, community-based advocacy plans were developed to identify actions that the faith leaders, women's representatives and youth leaders would take to change attitudes around gender equality. Pastors delivered sermons on the topic, leaders of different faiths organised marches through the streets to demand acceptance for children born of rape, and youth champions spoke out in schools and challenged the attitudes of their peers. These individual advocacy plans were complemented by radio programs and call-in talk shows on gender issues and rape.

Referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence were also strengthened by connecting survivors to services and facilitating monthly cluster meetings on gender-based violence.

Survivors and children born of rape were involved in the monitoring and direction of the project – and have expressed increased acceptance in their communities as a result.

Results

- Attitudes transformed:** Initially, 51% of faith leaders felt that a female victim of rape may have been at fault and should marry her perpetrator as a form of settlement. However, after the project, 97% now say they understand the harm of gender-based violence and will seek to respect the wishes of survivors.
- Referral pathways strengthened:** Survivors in Yambio, Nzara and Ezo Counties were connected with 18 health, justice, psychosocial support, livelihood and security services.

Key takeaway

- Expanding development assistance into fragile contexts** is important for long-term peace and stability, and behaviour-change programs can be effective even when implemented in 'humanitarian' or 'emergency' contexts. Prioritising fragile contexts is consistent with the aim of the Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind.

Title

Combating Stigma against Rape Survivors and Children Born of Rape in Armed Conflicts

Location

South Sudan

Duration

2016 – 2018

Primary SDG

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Secondary SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



In South Sudan, youth are being empowered to speak out in schools and challenge negative attitudes towards survivors of rape and their children.

Goal 6

Clean Water and Sanitation



The aim of Goal 6 is to provide universal access to safe water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Water and sanitation were formally recognised as human rights in 2010, acknowledging their fundamental role in survival, development and social equality. Although 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation since 1990, dwindling supplies of safe drinking water remain a major problem affecting every continent.⁴⁶

Today, 2.1 billion people lack safe drinking water at home, and more than twice as many lack safe sanitation.⁴⁷ Water scarcity is expected to worsen in the future because of climate change. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will be affected by recurring water shortages, many of whom will be children.⁴⁸

Two girls now have access to safe drinking water as a result of World Vision's Water and Sanitation Health program in Bangladesh.

Lucy Aulich/ © 2014
World Vision Australia

Improving water, sanitation and hygiene for children

In World Vision Australia's experience, bringing new sources of water or better toilets, hand washing and drainage to communities is transformational. It leads to improved irrigation for agriculture, better health for all, and is one of the strongest contributors to ending preventable deaths in children under five.

World Vision internationally has more than 50 years of experience in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming. Over that time, the emphasis has changed from direct engineering and infrastructure projects towards more community-led models, where local committees work with responsible government departments to identify and address WASH needs that reach the most vulnerable. In recent years, World Vision has expanded its WASH programming in urban and emergency contexts as well as in fragile states, in line with the aim of the Sustainable Development Goals to 'leave no one behind'.

Globally, World Vision supported better water, sanitation and hygiene in more than 1,500 programs in 57 countries around the world in 2016 and 2017. Over these two years alone, 7.8 million people benefited from access to improved water and sanitation and 7.2 million people benefited from access to improved hygiene.

World Vision's global strategy for achieving Goal 6 has focused on improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene in rural and low-income communities, schools and health facilities. This is being achieved through a range of approaches, including:

- **community-managed WASH committees:** Establishing local ownership of water resources and often collecting user fees to ensure that the system continues to function long after World Vision leaves

- **WASH and faith integration:** Engaging local faith leaders (including pastors, imams and traditional leaders) on common WASH issues, equipping them, as trusted voices in their communities, to promote behaviours such as healthy handwashing, proper latrine use and safe water handling. Since 2016, more than 10,000 faith leaders have participated globally in World Vision's hygiene, sanitation or behaviour-change programs
- **menstrual hygiene management:** Bringing dignity and safety to girls and women by ensuring that appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities are designed with them in mind
- **BabyWASH:** Integrating WASH, maternal and newborn child health and nutrition, and early childhood development interventions to address risks that occur for mothers and children in the first 1,000 days of life
- **designing for behaviour change:** Conducting formative research to ensure that program designs and activities make behaviour change and safe water and sanitation practices more likely
- **Citizen Voice and Action:** Empowering communities with the information and skills they need to advocate for improved WASH services in their local communities.

World Vision Australia designs and implements its WASH projects in an inclusive way, ensuring that everyone in the community (including children, women and people living with disabilities) can benefit from improved water and sanitation and live healthily and with dignity. A good example of this is World Vision's WASH project in Ethiopia, implemented over 12 months in 2017 and funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The project improved water sources for nearly 20,000 people by constructing boreholes and developing spring water sources, while also building toilets (including disability-friendly toilets). Combined with sanitation education, the project significantly reduced open defecation in the community.



Kicking Goals

Access to safe water and sanitation in Ethiopia

World Vision's water, sanitation and hygiene project in Ethiopia improved water sources for nearly 20,000 people and significantly reduced open defecation, creating a healthier and safer environment for all.

Context

Infectious, water-borne diseases such as trachoma and diarrhoea are particularly prevalent in Ethiopia. In the districts identified for World Vision's support, less than half of the population had access to a hygienic toilet and around one in three households did not have access to safe drinking water.

World Vision's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project in Ethiopia aimed to address two key challenges across six districts: (1) to improve the limited access to clean and safe water; and (2) to stop the ongoing practice of open defecation which threatened available water supplies.

Action

World Vision, with support from the local government and communities, constructed three deep wells and three shallow wells, rehabilitated three existing water systems and capped nine springs, resulting in increased access to safe and clean water for around 20,000 people. Funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the project also involved constructing toilets, ensuring that people with a disability were able to access them without difficulty.

New water and sanitation facilities were intentionally located near poor communities to reduce the distance and time needed to fetch water. As a result, women enjoyed greater opportunities to participate in economic and community activities. Women constituted between 40% and 50% of local WASH committees. Girls at school, who are more likely than boys to collect water, were also able to arrive to classes on time and to spend more time on their studies which, in turn, improved their school performance.

As a co-benefit, the project created job opportunities in toilet construction. To increase the uptake of new toilets, the project initially subsidised local masons, including those newly trained in the trade, so that concrete slabs could be sold to households at affordable rates.

As the project phased out, many of these small business owners continued to work jointly on local water and sanitation projects.

Hygiene awareness activities in schools were accompanied by practical services such as the provision of clean water or vaccinations. In total, around 55,000 children benefited from the project through clean water, hygiene awareness or improved toilet facilities, more than half of them girls.

Results

- **Improved sanitation:** Open defecation significantly reduced, lowering the risk of contaminated water and diarrhoeal disease. Handwashing messages reached more than 21,000 people.
- **Increased access to clean water:** Boreholes and rehabilitation work improved water sources for 20,000 people, significantly exceeding the original aim to bring portable water to 7,000 people.

Key takeaways

- **Behaviour-change education** before introducing new services such as sanitation facilities increases their usage, and is more effective than behaviour-change initiatives during or after construction.
- **Inclusive models** for development projects that intentionally consider vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as children, women and people with a disability, can maximise their impact and broaden their benefits.

Title

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project

Location

Ethiopia

Duration

2016 – 2017

Primary SDG

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Secondary SDG

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being



Woman carrying a baby on her back and a container of water on her head from a World Vision borehole in Zambia.

Goal 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth



Goal 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Globally, growth is slowing, inequalities are widening and there are not enough jobs to keep up with a growing labour force. More than 190 million people were unemployed in 2017.⁴⁹ An estimated 767 million people live on less than US\$1.90 per day.⁵⁰

The impact of extreme poverty on children's development remains significant; the prevalence of malnutrition is two to three times higher among the poorest income quintile than among the richest quintile.⁵¹ By contrast, higher household incomes give children better opportunities to access education and healthcare, ensuring that the cycle of poverty is broken.

Encouraging entrepreneurship, job creation and more inclusive economic growth are key to achieving this Goal, as are effective measures to eradicate child labour.

Strengthening livelihoods to provide for children

World Vision Australia recognises that the ability of parents and caregivers to consistently provide adequately for their children is largely dependent on the economic well-being of their households. The primary aim of World Vision's economic development work is to enable the poorest and most vulnerable parents and caregivers to provide sustainably for their children through resilient livelihoods.

World Vision Australia has developed and scaled three innovative program models to support social entrepreneurship and economic development in poor communities.

- **Savings 4 Transformation:** Setting up groups that facilitate savings, access to loans and micro-insurance within the group for those traditionally outside the reach of formal financial institutions to increase their resilience to economic shocks. Accumulated capital within the group can be accessed as loans by the members and interest accrued is shared among the group's members.
- **Inclusive Market Systems Development:** Improving the productive capacity of small-holder producers, giving them the skills, information, knowledge and resources that they need to participate in and benefit from market systems and increase their incomes.
- **Scaling Small and Growing Businesses:** Working with World Vision's microfinance subsidiary, VisionFund, to provide access to credit and ongoing business coaching to those entrepreneurs who have graduated beyond microfinance yet are unable to access traditional bank loans. Such small businesses are significant contributors to local economies, providing employment, goods and services, as well as commonly serving as the market for small-holder producers.

Through these economic development initiatives, World Vision Australia can graduate the most vulnerable households into the economic ecosystem, creating jobs, increasing incomes and giving poor families the tools that they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

World Vision Australia's livelihoods work also benefits children in two key ways. Firstly, high incomes enable parents and caregivers to increase family spending on goods and services essential for the development of children (including safe housing, nutritious food and quality schooling). This is especially the case when women are economically empowered, which is why World Vision Australia has embedded women's economic empowerment across its livelihoods programs. When women work, they invest 90% of their income back into their families, compared with 35% for men.⁵¹ Secondly, at a broader level, economic growth helps to widen and deepen the tax base, which allows governments to invest more in public services such as healthcare, education and social security that children can access and benefit from. Globally, World Vision invested over \$312.7 million (US\$231.2 million) in livelihoods programs in 2016 and 2017 across 60 countries, which benefited 5.8 million children.

Emma with her six-year-old son Chipu at her successful business, which she started with the help of a World Vision savings group.

© 2016 World Vision

Ending child labour

In the world's poorest countries, one out of every four children is involved in child labour.⁵³ This deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their education and, in some cases, can be extremely dangerous and risky. Most importantly, it is a gross violation of children's rights. In addition, child labour has been shown to increase adult unemployment and depress national wages.⁵⁴

Every day World Vision tackles child labour and its causes. It does this through targeted child labour elimination projects in over 25 countries. It also forms part of World Vision's global child protection work in at least 30 countries through its long-term Area Development Programmes. This includes reaching out to child labourers through children's centres, preventing child labour and supporting child labourers through education, and reducing pressure for child labour by increasing household incomes.

Through World Vision Australia's economic development programs, we have found that parents will usually withdraw their children from the labour market once the household income earned by adult workers exceeds a certain threshold.⁵⁵ All of World Vision's economic development work with communities – from providing small loans to create and expand businesses to improving access to local and international markets – has the co-benefit of reducing pressure for child labour.

World Vision's work has shown that the fight against child labour is slow but winnable. In India, for example, World Vision has contributed to a decline in child labour over three decades. In the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision has been operating projects since 2007 to reintegrate back into society girls caught up in commercial sexual exploitation. In the drylands of Ethiopia and Kenya, World Vision is helping farmers increase their productivity and yields, which is increasing the incomes of farmers and enabling them to better provide for their children and save them from child labour (see case study).



Kicking Goals

Ending child labour in Kenya and Ethiopia

World Vision's development program in the dryland areas of Kenya and Ethiopia is helping more than 200,000 smallholder farmers better capture and use rainwater to increase incomes, reducing pressure for child labour.

Title

Drylands
Development
Programme

Location

Kenya and Ethiopia

Duration

2013 – 2019

Primary SDG

SDG 8: Decent
Work and Economic
Growth

Secondary SDGs

SDG 1: No Poverty;
SDG 2: Zero
Hunger; SDG 5:
Gender Equality;
SDG 10: Reduced
Inequalities

Context

Countries in Africa have the world's highest rates of child labour. A report by the United Nations' International Labour Organization found that in 2016 nearly one out of every five children in Africa was involved in child labour.⁵⁶ Poverty is a key cause. In a 2001 survey in Ethiopia, 90% of children working in productive activities said that they were working to supplement or improve family incomes.⁵⁷

This project was implemented in the dryland, semi-arid areas of Kenya and Ethiopia, which only receive between 400–800 millimetres of rainfall each year. Nevertheless, agriculture is the dominant livelihood. As farming families struggle to build subsistence-based livelihoods, education often becomes unaffordable and children end up involved in farm labour.

Action

The Drylands Development Programme seeks to help dryland farmers transition from subsistence farming and emergency aid to having resilient and self-sustaining livelihoods. It does this in two ways: (1) by directly supporting smallholder farmers to increase their productivity; and (2) by creating an enabling business environment for farmers to succeed. Together, these interventions aim to increase the incomes of farmers and enable them to provide for their children, saving them from child labour. The program is funded by the Dutch Government with a contribution by World Vision Australia for activities in Ethiopia and Kenya.

In terms of direct support, the program is improving the productivity of farms through an integrated approach, including restoring watersheds to increase drought resilience and improving access to high-quality agricultural inputs such as seeds and equipment, based on a detailed market assessment, to increase yields. More than a million trees and grasses have been planted, and the practice of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (allowing shrubs and trees to regrow) has been implemented to slow runoff, allowing rain to soak deep into the ground. In total, over 50,000 hectares of land have been treated with various soil fertility and water management practices – from terracing to constructing sand dams to setting up irrigation schemes – increasing the production potential for farmers.

To create an enabling business environment for farmers, the program increased access to finance by linking them to microfinance institutions and by setting up village savings groups. Through these savings groups, the financially excluded come together to save regularly and access small loans from the accumulated savings. Farmers were supported to form cooperatives to increase their bargaining power and links to markets. In Ethiopia, these cooperatives enabled 83% of participants to sell produce to traders rather than to brokers, resulting in higher returns.

By the end of June 2018, the program reached nearly 80,000 farmers in Kenya and Ethiopia, affecting the lives of over 100,000 children.

Results

- **Increased incomes:** The average savings per person more than doubled (from \$32 in 2016 to \$76 in 2017). In Ethiopia, 84% of those engaged in production of promoted commodities had larger yields.
- **Increased resilience:** Before the project, just two farmers each harvested one poor crop per year and at times that too would fail. Now, farmers each grow two to three crops per year using harvested rainwater and gravity irrigation. As a result, despite the 2016 drought, communities sell more than in the past.
- **Reduced child labour:** Anecdotal reports suggest that once parents developed an adequate income, children were freed from child labour and were able to return to school.
- **Better food security:** Dietary diversity in Ethiopia has more than doubled compared to what it was, and the food gap, the difference between what wealthy people eat and what poor people eat, reduced by 34%.

Key takeaway

- **An integrated approach** combining landscape, soil and water management, access to finances and links with markets can turn around farm profitability, having positive flow on effects for children.



Local farmer feeds his sheep as part of the Drylands Development Programme in Wukro Valley, Ethiopia.

Silas Koch/ © 2017
World Vision

Goal 13 Climate Action



Goal 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This requires both reducing emissions to limit further warming, and building resilience to manage the effects of climate change which are already locked-in and unavoidable.

Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing, and are now more than 50% higher than their 1990 levels.⁵⁸ The world is already 0.85°C warmer than it was before pre-industrial times, and temperatures continue to rise.⁵⁹ Since 1970, the number of weather-related disasters worldwide has more than quadrupled to around 400 a year.⁶⁰

The Sustainable Development Goals show that development and climate change are intrinsically linked, and that efforts to empower communities must go hand in hand with efforts to lower emissions and reduce risks from natural disasters.

Reducing carbon pollution

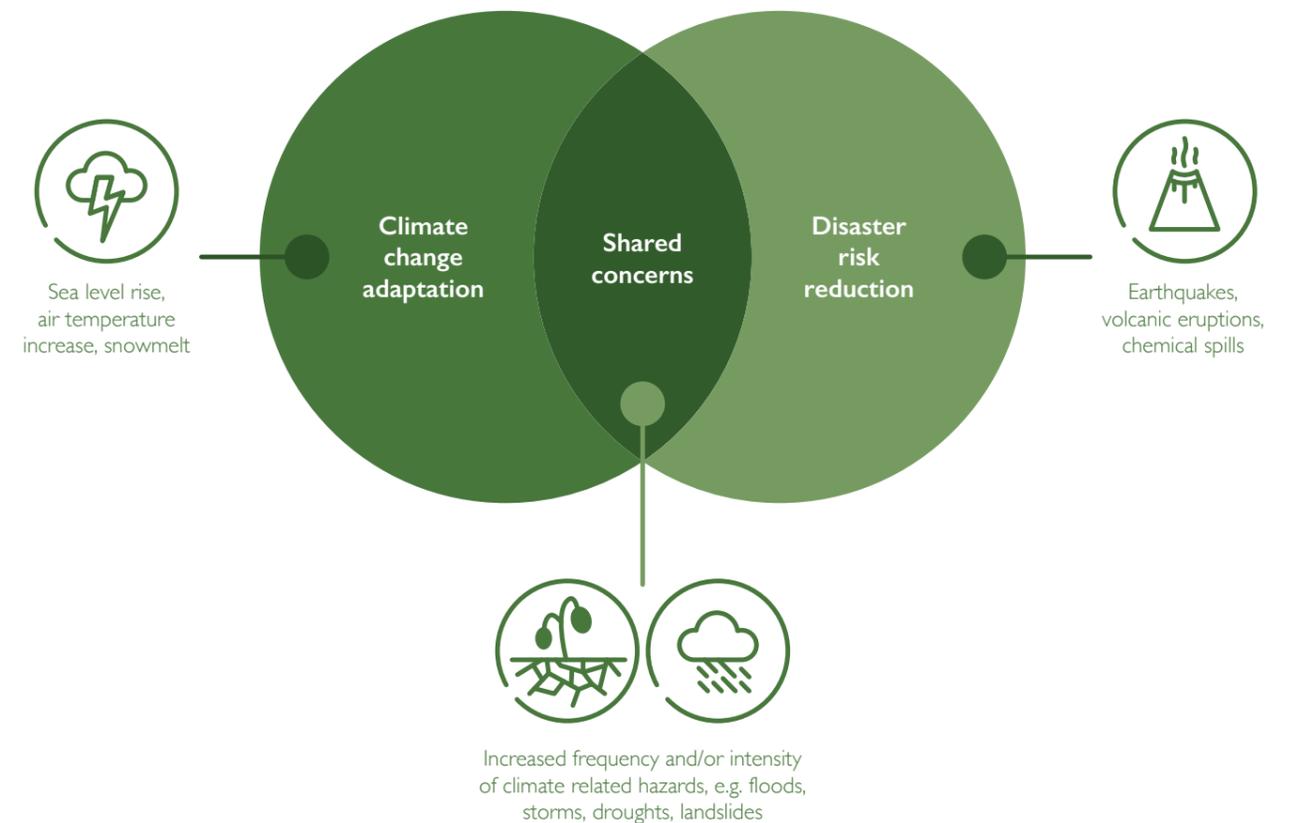
Around three billion people worldwide heat their homes using open fires and simple cookstoves.⁶¹ In developing countries, this has led to 730 million tonnes of biomass being burned each year, releasing more than 1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere.⁶² Exposure to pollutants from open cooking fires also causes a range of diseases. In fact, 3.8 million deaths each year – mostly women and children – can be attributed to diseases caused by smoke inhalation from open cooking fires.⁶³

World Vision Australia understands the need of poor communities for cleaner and more reliable sources of energy. One of the most effective ways of reducing emissions and household air pollution to safer levels is for households to switch from open fires and simple cookstoves to clean technology such as electric, LPG, ethanol, biogas or forced draft gasifier cookstoves.

World Vision Australia has been investigating and trialling a variety of fuel-efficient cooking stoves as part of a holistic approach to improving the environment, child health and development. In our experience, more efficient cooking stoves can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, slow local deforestation, and reduce smoke inhalation and its associated health problems. When wood-based stoves are replaced, women, who are often responsible for collecting fuel for cooking, can also have more time to participate in the local economy and take care of their children. Field trials indicate that the installation and correct use of improved stoves can reduce greenhouse gases from cooking by 74%, contributing to global efforts to reduce emissions.

Improved cookstove projects have been implemented in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Kenya and Peru, reducing more than 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year since 2016. In Myanmar, for example, World Vision has piloted the use of 3,000 fuel-efficient cookstoves and is designing an innovative Development Impact Bond to roll-out the stoves at scale (see case study). In Oromia in Ethiopia, World Vision has equipped more than 50,000 households with fuel-efficient cookstoves, reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 200,000 tonnes. This project is registered with the Clean Development Mechanism (an international carbon certification body) which allows it to generate carbon credits to sell to other governments. For instance, the Swedish Energy Agency has agreed to purchase 600,000 carbon credits from World Vision's project in Oromia over a seven-year period for a total value of \$5.2 million (€3.3 million). This revenue will be used to fund a sustainable livelihoods program.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction



Building resilience to disasters and climate change

For development activities to be sustainable, communities must understand the hazards around them and learn how to reduce their disaster risk, especially in the context of a changing climate.

World Vision Australia integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in its projects to build resilience in a sustainable way and help communities to respond to natural hazards. As illustrated by the diagram above, the aims of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction overlap. Both share the overarching aim of reducing vulnerability and building resilience to support long-term sustainable development.

In the Pacific and Timor-Leste, World Vision Australia is helping communities to withstand natural hazards, reduce their vulnerability and adapt to climate change. World Vision works with these and other communities to identify risks that they face and look for ways to reduce these risks. Building resilience includes a range of approaches, from building stronger houses and creating sustainable water sources through to savings groups and crop diversification, to help communities maintain their livelihoods amid changing conditions.

For example, between 2010 and 2016, World Vision supported three communities in the Solomon Islands to strengthen community resilience to disasters and climate change. World Vision established disaster committees and trained communities to develop disaster management plans, later trialling their response plans through disaster simulation exercises. At the end of the project, there was an 89% increase in community disaster preparedness.

Kicking Goals

Reducing carbon pollution in Myanmar

To reduce emissions and health problems from open cooking fires in Myanmar, World Vision is piloting the use of fuel-efficient stoves and designing a Development Impact Bond to roll-out the stoves at scale.

Context

According to the 2014 census, 93% of households in Myanmar cook on open fires or traditional stoves with solid fuels.⁶⁴ Inefficient use of solid fuels for cooking contributes to local forest degradation and increases CO₂ emissions into the environment.

Air pollutants from biomass smoke are also a health hazard, especially for children who often develop acute lower respiratory infections from breathing in smoke from open cooking fires.

In addition, the intensive form of cooking places a heavy fuel collection burden on households (especially women), reducing their time and ability to earn incomes or care for their children.

Action

World Vision's Myanmar Cookstoves Pilot, an innovative project supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is developing a model for the large-scale, market-based distribution of fuel-efficient cookstoves in Myanmar.

A field trial of fuel-efficient and environmentally-friendly cookstoves was piloted in more than 3,000 households to reduce reliance on wood fuel among participating households, leading to better outcomes for family health and the environment. These trials have shown that the new stove is culturally acceptable, durable and much more efficient than open cooking alternatives.

The next stage is to finance the distribution of the cookstoves through impact investors. Impact investors are people or organisations who invest in creating social, environmental, education or health impacts through market-based interventions that introduce modern technologies or practices.

World Vision, in partnership with local distributors, is using pre-finance from private investors to establish a commercially-viable and scalable model for distributing the fuel-efficient cookstoves to local rural communities. This model will provide everything from physical distribution of the cookstoves to behaviour-change education and post-sales services. The health and environmental impacts generated through the daily use of the cookstoves will be certified through the Gold Standard for the Global Goals (a carbon certification body which allows for the generation of carbon credits).

World Vision Australia and Cardno Development are designing a Development Impact Bond to boost investments into the clean cooking technology supply chains in Myanmar.

Results

- **Promising health benefits:** Field trials in more than 3,000 households across Myanmar have shown that the Mimi-Moto cookstove can significantly reduce household exposure to harmful air particles.
- **Emissions reduced:** For every fuel-efficient cookstove, approximately 2.5 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent are reduced per year. When the project is completed, it aims to distribute more than 20,000 stoves, which will result in at least 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent reduced per year.

Key takeaway

- **Innovative financing models** should be explored to leverage private sector investment and maximise the impact of community development organisations and governments.

Title

Cookstoves Pilot Project

Location

Myanmar

Duration

2015 – 2019

Primary SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being;
SDG 13: Climate Action

Secondary SDG

SDG 15: Life On Land



Community demonstration of a fuel-efficient cookstove at Chauk Township in Myanmar.

San Tin Phyo/ © 2017 World Vision

Goal 15

Life On Land



Goal 15 focuses specifically on restoring land ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use. The sustainable management of forests and stopping biodiversity loss are also key aims of this Goal.

While net forest loss has decreased by more than half since the 1990s, forests continue to be destroyed.⁶⁵ Around 15 billion trees are cut down each year.⁶⁶ Currently we are witnessing unprecedented land degradation and the loss of arable land at 30–35 times the historical rate, compounded by the effects of climate change.⁶⁷

The Sustainable Development Goals, which bring the global environment and development agendas together for the first time, aim to stop deforestation and conserve and restore natural ecosystems. All these efforts combined aim to ensure that the benefits of land-based ecosystems, including sustainable livelihoods, will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Regenerating forests and land for current and future generations

In more than 27 countries in Africa and Asia, World Vision helps farmers and their communities restore land and forests through a technique known as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration. It is a low-cost technique that helps restore degraded land and has been proven to combat poverty and hunger.

Through natural regeneration practices, farmers systematically manage trees and shrubs, pruning in such a way that encourages maximum regrowth. Regenerating trees involves four main steps: selecting and protecting the desired tree stumps; leaving the best stems for future growth; removing unwanted stems and side branches; and removing emerging new stems and pruning side-branches from time to time.

By following these steps, the buried root systems begin to thrive, turning almost completely bare soils into productive farmland. In time, this new tree cover dramatically improves farmers' harvests and livestock productivity, consequently increasing their incomes. The regrown trees and shrubs – integrated into crops and grazing pastures – help restore soil structure and fertility, reduce erosion, rehabilitate springs and provide a habitat for local animals and birdlife. Select harvesting of trees is also helpful for firewood, timber and other products like wild foods and medicines.

World Vision Australia's very own Tony Rinaudo (Natural Resource Management Advisor) pioneered Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration in Niger during the 1983 famine and is regarded as the leading expert in the technique worldwide. In that country alone, 200 million trees have since grown on five million hectares of degraded farmland. Over 30 years, these efforts have absorbed at least 30 million tonnes of carbon.

Since its trial in Niger, Tony and World Vision Australia have promoted the technique across Africa – and beyond. While most reforestation approaches rely on planting new seedlings, World Vision's approach regenerates the existing forest that often lies dormant on or below the surface. Now millions of people worldwide are better equipped to protect the environment and restore their lands.

Climate change mitigation is one of the greatest benefits of regenerating forests. Reforestation reduces carbon emissions from the atmosphere. In Soddo, Ethiopia, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration is creating significant revenue for community development and household incomes through the sale of carbon credits (see case study).

Kicking Goals

Regenerating forests in Ethiopia

World Vision is regenerating or planting more than a million trees in Soddo in Ethiopia through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, increasing biodiversity, strengthening livelihoods and sequestering tonnes of carbon.

Context

Land in many areas of Ethiopia, like the highlands near the township of Soddo in the country's southwest, are severely degraded. The major causes of land degradation in Ethiopia are deforestation, population growth, severe soil loss, and unsustainable agricultural practices.

World Vision has worked in Ethiopia on famine relief and rural development since the 1980s, and has a strong working relationship with the cooperatives and community groups in the area.

Action

World Vision's reforestation project extends across 503 hectares in the highlands of Mount Damota, Ethiopia. This project was developed by the local community in partnership with World Vision, and is managed by community members living on and around Mount Damota.

The project uses Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration of native species as the main reforestation method. It employs more than 100 skilled community members to protect and maintain the forest, to propagate trees in community nurseries, to plant out, and to oversee operations. Over a million trees are expected to be regenerated or planted across the site.

In turn, reforestation is increasing local biodiversity, contributing to healthier livestock, increasing water availability and improving the fertility of the land. Community members were able to earn increased incomes from the sale of bamboo, vetiver grass, honey, apple and grafted mango seedlings as a result.

World Vision also negotiated a partnership between Soddo communities and the Gold Standard Foundation, a carbon certification body which allows for the generation of carbon credits. Now the communities can earn and sell carbon credits for each tonne of CO₂ equivalent absorbed by reforested trees. Sales of carbon credits to date have raised more than \$700,000 in revenue.

Revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits is used to fund community forestry cooperatives which use the funds to invest in livelihood opportunities such as nurseries, bee keeping, cattle fattening and ecotourism. So far, 441 households have accessed credit from carbon revenue to invest in different businesses. World Vision Australia manages the interface between the provision of verifiable carbon credits by the community cooperative and the sale of those credits to the voluntary carbon market.

Results

- **Increased carbon sequestration:** Reforestation from the project has sequestered (or stored) approximately 94,000 tonnes of CO₂ and generated \$700,000 in carbon revenue.
- **Improved biodiversity:** 41 tree species and 110 bird species have been recorded in the project area, with reforestation restoring the natural habitat for many animals and birds.
- **Funding self-sustained:** Initially funded by World Vision Australia, the project is now funded 100% by carbon revenue. World Vision's German-based partner, Forest Finest Consulting, markets and sells the carbon credits to a variety of European companies who offset their emissions through this project.

Key takeaway

- **Environmental projects are community development projects.** In this instance, reforestation not only improved the environment, but had flow-on benefits for health and livelihoods in the local community.

Title
Soddo Reforestation Project

Location
Ethiopia

Duration
2006 – 2036

Primary SDG
SDG 15: Life On Land

Secondary SDGs
SDG 1: No Poverty;
SDG 2: Zero Hunger;
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth;
SDG 13: Climate Action



Reforestation in Soddo Ethiopia is improving the fertility of the land for farmers and increasing their incomes.

Silas Koch/ © 2017 World Vision

Goal 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



The aim of Goal 16 is to promote peace and justice, together with accountable and inclusive institutions, because, without them, sustainable development cannot be realised.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and Goal 16 highlights the importance of ending the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

In 2015, at least three out of four of the world's children – 1.7 billion – had experienced interpersonal violence in a previous year.⁶⁸ It is a problem that not only harms each child, but jeopardises their future survival, health and education. Every seven minutes somewhere in the world, an adolescent is killed by an act of violence.⁶⁹ Child protection, especially protection from violence, is not only a key part of the Goals: it is a fundamental human right.

Protecting vulnerable children

In line with Goal 16, World Vision believes that all efforts to promote the development of children should begin with protecting them from abuse, neglect, exploitation and all other forms of violence.

Accordingly, World Vision Australia's child protection work engages the whole community in upholding the rights of children. We recognise that children are not passive and that, with the right information and encouragement, they can be sufficiently empowered to protect themselves.

The graphic on the adjacent page summarises World Vision's systems approach to protecting girls and boys, showing how we work with all community actors – from the children themselves to their families and caregivers, communities, faith groups and governments – to ensure that they are protected from all forms of violence.

This approach is a shift away from the traditional approach to child protection which involves stand-alone projects dedicated to protecting particular groups of vulnerable children. Instead, this systems approach addresses child protection more holistically by having a greater focus on prevention and acknowledging the roles of key actors responsible for child protection to create long-term change. It includes everything from increasing children's resilience and their life skills and voice, to transforming attitudes and behaviours, to strengthening services and support mechanisms and laws.

World Vision's systems approach for protecting girls and boys



Solomon Islands staff member training pastors from the Weathercoast region of the Solomon Islands to address social norms underpinning gender-based violence.

Sophie Timothy/ © 2014 World Vision

Reducing intimate partner violence

World Vision is committed to protecting children from experiencing or witnessing violence. We work in more than 50 countries to educate communities about the rights of children, teaching people how to identify situations where a child may be exploited, and ensuring that children know how to protect themselves.

At an international level, World Vision co-chairs the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. It is a partnership of more than 270 member organisations across a range of sectors to accelerate action to protect children and catalyse human and financial resources to achieve the Goal's targets to end violence against children.

World Vision is running a five-year campaign across five continents called 'It takes a world to end violence against children'.⁷⁰ The campaign is bringing decision-makers, parents, community organisations and faith leaders together to join with children to call for an end to all forms of violence against children. The campaign is working with survivors to amplify their stories and voices, highlighting when violence against children occurs and holding those responsible to account. World Vision Australia is supporting the rollout of the campaign across the Pacific and Timor–Leste.

World Vision Australia recognises that violence against children often occurs in the home alongside violence against women. Both forms of violence often share the same risk factors: gender inequality, unhealthy social norms, and a history of abuse across generations. World Vision Australia is addressing these root causes of violence through our Channels of Hope for Gender projects which explore gender issues from a faith perspective. Through a series of structured workshops, faith and community leaders are guided through religious teachings to value women and children and promote positive gender relationships. In turn, the faith leaders educate their congregations about appropriate relationships, behaviours and attitudes, mobilising them to identify and support the most vulnerable in their communities. The religious messaging is complemented by an effort to link survivors of violence to support services.

For example, World Vision Australia is supporting this behaviour-change approach in Timor–Leste, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (see case study). With most people in these three countries identifying as Christian, faith-based teachings have been well-received and have led to material changes in gender attitudes. In Vanuatu, for example, more than half (65%) of congregation members after the project reported reductions in family violence and improvements in how women and girls were treated at home. This approach has been adapted to work in Indigenous communities in Australia as well.

Ending child trafficking

Child trafficking is a hidden crime. While the full scale of this brutal trade is not known, the International Labour Organization estimated that between 980,000 and 1.2 million children were in a forced labour situation because of trafficking in 2005.⁷¹ Common forms of child trafficking are bonded labour; hazardous or exploitative child labour; child sex trafficking; forced child marriage, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

World Vision Australia works with children, families, communities and governments to prevent trafficking, protect survivors and improve anti-trafficking policies. This requires targeting the three dimensions of trafficking: supply, demand, and the systems and structures that allow it to happen, as illustrated by the Figure below.

Through our work, vulnerable children and youth learn how to protect themselves.

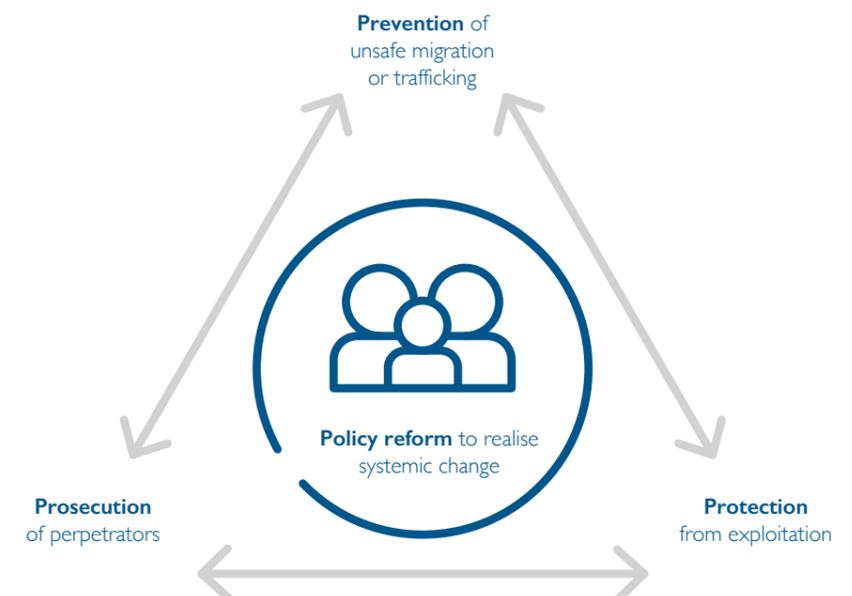
Parents receive job training and financial assistance to improve their incomes. Child protection watch groups are established to create a safer community environment. More children obtain birth certificates to verify their identity and provide legal protection against exploitation based on age. And survivors of abuse and trafficking are assisted to rebuild their lives. We also work with local authorities to improve laws and prosecute offenders, and we advocate for global co-operation in the fight against trafficking.

World Vision's End Trafficking in Persons program across the Greater Mekong region, for example, helps to prevent and respond to human trafficking. It is the largest anti-trafficking program of its kind. World Vision's work to strengthen child participation and protection systems in India is also reducing child trafficking by training children in personal safety and building the capacity of police and other first responders to identify and respond to threats (see case study).

‘The underlying principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is to leave no one behind and to reach those who are furthest behind. For World Vision, leave no one behind means reaching the most vulnerable children in the world’s hardest places to live.’

– Graham Strong, Chief of Field Impact

Three dimensions of World Vision’s work to end child trafficking



Kicking Goals

Reducing gender-based violence in the Pacific

The project is addressing the gendered social norms that underpin the high prevalence of intimate partner violence in the Pacific while also connecting survivors to services and information.

Context

Gender-based violence continues to be a major and persistent problem in Timor–Leste and the Pacific. In the Solomon Islands, two-thirds of women with partners have experienced physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months, while 73% of women believed that a man was justified in using violence against his wife under some circumstances.⁷² In Timor–Leste and Vanuatu, around 60% of women aged 15–49 experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime.⁷³ Intimate partner violence has also been associated with higher rates of child abuse and infant mortality.⁷⁴

Action

With support from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Vision used its Channels of Hope model to engage faith leaders (Christian pastors and their spouses) and equip them with the information that they needed to change community attitudes and help reduce intimate partner violence. The project provided coaching and training on addressing gender-based violence (including referrals to services where necessary), and encouraged faith leaders to be proactive in discussing the root causes of violence with their congregations.

As a result of the training, faith leaders became actively involved as champions of women's rights in their communities. They shared key messages in their sermons and private studies. In Vanuatu, congregation members ran innovative Sunday and Sabbath School programs that taught gender equality messages to children. Finding that the programs elicited disclosures from children regarding violence in their homes, the project enhanced support to teachers on how to deal with confidential disclosures.

As well as supporting faith leaders, the project strengthened links with service providers to ensure that people received support.

In Vanuatu this included training service providers in counselling; in Timor–Leste, the project supported organisations to increase security measures for women referred to temporary housing and trained eight community teams in child protection; and in the Solomon Islands, the project connected survivors with services and promoted good parenting practices to men. Public awareness on gender-based violence was increased through radio broadcasts, spokespeople and community campaigns.

Results

- **Survivors supported:** Across the region, 172 women experiencing violence received counselling support or referrals that would have been previously unavailable. In Vanuatu, almost 95% of pastors who attended counselling training had provided support to survivors in the following two months.
- **Increased capacity to respond:** In Timor–Leste, eight of 11 project partners reported increased capacity to fulfil their roles in responding to issues of violence and child protection. In Vanuatu, a third of faith leaders increased their referral practices when it came to violence against women.
- **Attitudes changed:** There was an increased awareness of gender-based violence, with 95% of church members in Vanuatu saying that they would seek help from a support network or service provider in the face of violence.

Key takeaway

- **Identify and use trusted voices** in the local community for advocacy and behaviour change. In this case, churches were strong vehicles for messages about gender-based violence given their social influence.

Title

Pacific and Timor–Leste Reducing Gender-based Violence Project

Location

Timor–Leste, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

Duration

2014 – 2018

Primary SDG

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Secondary SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Kicking Goals

Ending child trafficking in India

World Vision is reducing child trafficking and improving child protection in India by training children in personal safety and building the capacity of police and other first responders to identify and respond to threats.

Context

Child safety and trafficking is a significant problem in India. Many children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold in large numbers.

More than 300,000 children went missing in India between 2011 and 2014, 44% of whom remain untraced.⁷⁵ Approximately 15% of India's estimated 2.3 million commercial sex workers are children.⁷⁶

Action

The project aimed to empower children, families and communities to protect children from abuse, exploitation, neglect and all other forms of violence (including trafficking) using a systems approach.

This involved building the capacity of the police and other first responders to effectively detect and respond to child protection issues, training parents in child protection, parenting and care within the household and in the broader community, facilitating a school safety program, establishing child protection policies and improving complaint mechanisms in schools.

The project also focused on strengthening existing child protection programs by working with governments and communities to strengthen the reporting, referral mechanisms and support programs for child protection incidents. Child Protection Units were set up within the target communities to monitor the most vulnerable children.

Between 2016 and 2017, the project educated more than 31,000 children in personal safety and life skills, established more than 3,200 children's groups and established 450 Child Protection Units. In addition, almost 3,800 child protection first responders were trained to address emergency child protection issues.

Results

- **Improved child-friendly environments:** Families, communities and schools were made more supportive and provided safe environments for children.
- **Greater capacity to respond to child protection issues:** First responders and families were able to better identify and respond to threats to children.

Key takeaways

- **Adopting a systems perspective** enabled the project to take full advantage of any element within the child protection system, from interventions in schools, to justice system reform, to changes at the household level.
- **Collaborating with both formal and informal actors** through a combined top-down and bottom-up approach is useful to address root causes to better protect girls and boys from violence.

Title

Strengthening Child Participation and Protection Systems project

Location

India

Duration

2015 – 2020

Primary SDG

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Secondary SDGs

SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 5: Gender Equality

14-year-old Hina training other children in her community in India about the basic rights of a child and how children can protect themselves from possible danger.

Annika Harri/ © 2016 World Vision



Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals



While most of the Goals relate to outcomes of sustainable development ('the what'), the final Goal addresses the means through which these outcomes should be achieved ('the how'). Goal 17 calls for a stronger commitment to partnerships and cooperation at every level – global, regional, national and local – to deliver results and fast-track implementation.

To realise the ambitions of the Goals, everyone has a role to play. Governments, the private sector, non-government organisations like World Vision Australia as well as local communities and individuals all need to take action, not only alone, but also in partnership. Given the scope and complexity of the Goals, it is critical to build partnerships at all levels in order to leverage the skills, expertise and resources of different sectors and organisations.

By sharing information, resources, technology and capabilities across sectors and geographies, we can achieve impact together that we could never achieve alone.

Collaborating with others to protect children

World Vision Australia is committed to advancing sustainable development in collaboration with local communities and in partnership with a range of organisations, including governments and businesses, that share our goal of building a better and more sustainable world, especially for children.

To achieve the Goals, World Vision recognises that there is an increasing need to draw on the investment, expertise and technology of the private sector, to learn from emerging best practice in academia, and to collaborate with governments and local communities as joint partners in the co-delivery of projects. These partnerships are genuine, deep and practical, built around a shared vision which places people and the planet at the centre.

As Claire Rogers, CEO of World Vision Australia, put it:

At World Vision, we're looking for innovative ways to partner with the private sector to increase our impact. We've found that strategic technologies and new and innovative ways of working often coming out of the private sector can be combined with our development approach to create scaled impact.

For World Vision Australia, building partnerships means exploring innovative ways of working, building mutual understanding, fostering respect and nurturing relationships, driven by shared common goals and values.

For example, World Vision's partnership with Google and a social enterprise in South Africa is aimed at protecting slum communities from fires by rolling out an innovative fire detection alarm in shelters (see Lumkani case study). In the Pacific and Timor-Leste, World Vision has partnered with churches, police and government agencies through its Channels of Hope for Gender program to train trusted community leaders to challenge gender attitudes and reduce gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence. In Papua New Guinea, World Vision's health projects are partnering with Colgate to distribute toothpaste and toothbrushes to children and pregnant women. And the domestic airline Jetstar has been raising funds since 2007 to support World Vision's work in Australia and southeast Asia through the StarKids initiative.

Partnerships are central to World Vision's approach to development, and especially its approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kicking Goals

Partnering with enterprises in South Africa

World Vision Australia partnered with Lumkani, a social enterprise in South Africa, to access funding and roll out an innovative fire detection device to protect people in slum communities from fires.

Context

More than 800 million people, or one person in 10, currently live in a slum.⁷⁷ With the global urban population expected to dramatically increase over the next 25 years, this number is likely to grow.

The combination of congested housing, dangerous electrical connections and common open flames create a high risk of fire breaking out in these slums, and spreading quickly. But there are little to no appropriate warning systems and response mechanisms in place in most slums. Consequently, fires in slum communities kill thousands of people each year, and destroy many more houses and businesses.

Action

World Vision Australia partnered with Lumkani, a social enterprise in South Africa, to pilot its networked fire alarm system in slum communities to enable residents and fire services to more proactively respond to slum fires. In 2014, the device was first piloted in 1,000 slum households in Cape Town, South Africa.

Lumkani's fire detection device is designed specifically for slums. Instead of detecting smoke like most fire alarms, Lumkani's device detects a rapid rise in temperature. This reduces the number of false alarms from smoke, given that open fires are often used for cooking, heating and lighting. When rapid heat rise triggers the detector, an alarm sounds. The detectors are wirelessly networked, so a signal is also sent to other detectors within a 60-metre radius, along with phone text messages to alert the community. The fire's GPS coordinates are also automatically sent to emergency services.

Since the initial pilot in Cape Town, World Vision and Lumkani accessed seed funding through the Google Impact Challenge to develop a business model that can achieve scale. This model will involve partnering with a local insurance company to enable households to rent the detector along with a micro-insurance product. In this model, insurance agents act as first responders to fire, supply fire safety information, and install the detector.

Results

- **Houses protected, lives saved:** 90% of slum homes fitted with the fire detector have been protected from destruction by fire, and the response of emergency services has significantly improved.
- **Impact scaled:** Since the pilot in Cape Town, Lumkani's partnership with World Vision has expanded to eight locations in South Africa and to slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Key takeaways

- **A shared vision and complementary capabilities** are critical for cross-sector partnerships to succeed. In this case, Lumkani had the technology and World Vision brought close ties to the local community and a worldwide network together to roll-out the device at scale.
- **A trial, test and expand approach** is effective when trying new project models or technologies, first trialling the project with a sample group to refine and demonstrate impact, before scaling up.

Title

Lumkani Partnership

Location

Cape Town, South Africa; Dhaka, Bangladesh

Duration

2014 – Present

Primary SDG

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Secondary SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Lumkani fire detection device detects a rapid rise in temperature instead of smoke or particles in the air, which protects slum communities from fire.

© 2016 World Vision





Be a Goal Kicker

Preschool children happily sprint across the grounds of their primary school in Rwanda.

Jon Warren/ © 2018 World Vision

The Goalposts are set. As a planet, we have 17 Sustainable Development Goals to achieve by 2030. We have a responsibility, to both current and future generations, to make these ambitions a reality. We are already three years into implementation, and promising progress is being made. But more can and must be done. Join World Vision Australia in becoming a Goal Kicker and, together, we can make the world more fair and sustainable for all.

Key takeaways from World Vision's experience

From our work on sustainable development around the globe, World Vision Australia has learned six key lessons. They are borne out in the 'Kicking Goals' examples in this report: from protecting children from malaria in Malawi, to regenerating forests in Ethiopia, to setting up place-based cultural playgroups in the West Kimberley. Whether you are a business, government or other NGO – in Australia or overseas – these lessons can help maximise your sustainable development impact.

Top six tips for Goal Kickers

1.

Focus on the most vulnerable children

Put children first. A child who is six years old in 2018 will reach adulthood by 2030, when the Sustainable Development Goals are due to be achieved. As sustainability leaders in their own right, children should be central to the work of every Goal Kicker. The fundamental principle of the Goals is to leave no one behind, and children are often the first forgotten in times of hardship and disaster.

Sustainable development initiatives must be intentional about identifying and benefiting the most vulnerable children. In certain cases, this may require adapting or modifying program designs to address the needs of these unique groups. For example, livelihood interventions may require coupling long-term, sustainable business ideas with shorter-term assistance to meet daily needs.

2.

Go beyond business as usual

On the current global trajectory, the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved by 2030. Clearly, business as usual is not enough. Efforts need to scale up, new partnerships need to be formed, and new ways of working and financing need to be explored.

As the Goals themselves identify, partnerships are fundamental to achieve outcomes of this scale. It is increasingly important to forge partnerships with those who have a shared vision and complementary capabilities. For example, World Vision partnered with Colgate to distribute toothbrushes and toothpaste to children and pregnant women in Papua New Guinea. Another example is World Vision's reforestation project in Ethiopia which linked communities to international mechanisms to generate and sell carbon credits; and our collaboration with a social enterprise in South Africa to roll out their fire detection invention in slums.

Explore new sources of finance. Non-traditional forms of development finance include social impact investing, results-based financing and remittances, to name a few. World Vision Australia is going beyond business as usual, for example, by designing a Development Impact Bond to fund the establishment of a clean cookstove supply chain in Myanmar.

3.

Integrate interventions

The Sustainable Development Goals are deeply integrated. Each Goal builds on and affects another. There are multiple synergies and sometimes even trade-offs between them. That is why World Vision Australia cautions against 'cherry picking' the Goals and rather recommends using a holistic and integrated approach to advance multiple Goals together. We recognise that the Goals are inter-dependent, and that gender equality and child rights are genuinely cross-cutting issues that should be mainstreamed across sustainable development initiatives.

For World Vision Australia, an integrated approach to sustainable development not only means contributing to multiple goals simultaneously. It can also mean integrating a combination of supply and demand interventions, collaborating with both formal and informal actors, and employing a blend of top-down and bottom-up solutions. In our experience, initiatives that are integrated achieve better outcomes compared to rigidly siloed interventions, especially when they are coupled with behaviour-change approaches.

For example, in Ethiopia, World Vision constructed water and sanitation facilities and, at the same time, raised awareness on the importance of handwashing and using toilets to increase their usage. In neighbouring Kenya, World Vision has integrated programs on soil and water management for farmers with access to finance and markets to broaden economic opportunities for struggling families.

Sustainable development and poverty are multi-dimensional. To address them, integrated and multi-dimensional responses are needed.

4.

Have a plan

Put a plan in place to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Design evidence-based initiatives, develop timelines, clarify accountabilities and get endorsement from the top leadership.

For businesses and NGOs, this means moving from mapping sustainability impact to revising organisational strategies to ensure that they align completely with the Sustainable Development Goals. World Vision Australia is revising its own Field Impact Strategy to ensure that the Goals are central to everything we do.

For the Australian Government, this means developing a national action plan that outlines how Australia will achieve the Goals, both nationally and through its international development assistance. To clarify, this is not an exercise in retrospectively mapping the Goals against pre-existing priorities – it requires rethinking domestic and international development policies from the ground up to make achieving the Sustainable Development Goals the heart of every Government initiative. Countries like Finland, Denmark and Germany have already developed national plans to implement the Goals, and Australia should follow their example.

5.

Think global, act local

The Sustainable Development Goals are on the global agenda, but to be relevant on the ground they need to be tailored to the local context.

World Vision Australia partners with communities in the places where we work to ensure that our projects are locally owned and led. Whether implemented in Australia or overseas, sustainable development initiatives should be designed with local needs and culture in mind to ensure that they are effective and that the projects, themselves, are sustainable. For example, recognising that female genital mutilation is often seen as a rite of passage, World Vision worked with communities in Kenya to develop an alternative rite of passage for girls.

In World Vision's experience, using trusted voices in the community can also be a very effective way of leading change in the local context. For example, World Vision Australia works with faith leaders in different religious contexts to change community attitudes and behaviours, from reducing acceptance of female genital mutilation in Kenya, to changing attitudes to gender-based violence in the Pacific, to combating stigma against children born of rape in South Sudan. Key and trusted influencers in local communities, especially in remote areas where government presence is limited, can be especially helpful partners for achieving sustainable development objectives.

6.

Data matters

What gets measured, gets done. Collecting data at regular intervals that is disaggregated, especially by age and sex, is critical to monitor sustainable development outcomes and to track the experiences of particular groups to ensure that no one is left behind.

For World Vision, collecting and analysing disaggregated data allows us to identify initiatives that are most effective and those that can be adjusted to maximise their impact.

In World Vision Australia's experience, improving the coverage and quality of child-related data is essential to harnessing the power of sustainable development for children.

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