

Church Engagement Fact Sheets



In Our Promise 2030, we affirm our commitment to live out our Christian faith and calling with boldness and humility.

Our Christian faith is not only central to our identity, but is a strength not yet fully utilised to address spiritual aspects and causes of vulnerability, and engage with the faith-based perspectives of most of the world’s people. We seek to collaborate with the Church and people of other faiths and ideologies who share common values of justice, love and hope that fulfil God’s purposes, and we aspire to see lives transformed through hope in Jesus Christ, expressed through life, deed, word and sign. We recognise that this requires taking our understanding, expression and application of our faith to a new level, and requires wisdom and sensitivity, particularly in interfaith contexts.

Therefore, we:

1. **Equip our leaders and staff to live out our faith as appropriate in their context, by providing training, mentoring, and guidance.**
2. **Further develop and scale guidance and evidence-based models for integrating faith in ministry practice and tackling the roots of poverty, vulnerability and injustice.**
3. **Ensure that all entities consistently and clearly communicate our Christian identity and mission, with messaging adapted for their different audiences.**
4. **Expand and deepen our partnerships with churches and faith leaders, acting as connectors, and mobilising Christians and the Church together with other faith leaders.**

Fact Sheets

In support of this strategic initiative, we have developed a series of Church Engagement Fact Sheets to provide a learning resource that helps World Vision staff understand how we partner with churches to accelerate change in communities to transform children’s lives. The embedded document includes a total of 66 Church Engagement Fact Sheets, representing all seven regions in which World Vision works.

Each sheet contains:

- Country Population and Religious Context Demographics
- Number of Church Leaders Trained
- Number of Children Participating in Spiritual Nurture Activities
- Challenges to Child Well-Being in the Country
- How Faith Communities Partner with the Field Offices
- Prayer Requests
- A Story of Lives Changed



Global Overview

The Church is Our Indispensable Partner

We believe the Church is the greatest God-ordained force for holistic transformation that the world has ever seen.

For many of the communities in which World Vision works, faith and religious belief are integral to every aspect of their lives. Faith leaders are among the most influential members of the community. They are listened to, trusted and respected. Consequently, pastors and other faith leaders are the gatekeepers of social change -- either guardians of the status quo or champions of new ideas, attitudes, and behaviours that can improve the well-being of people.

Working with faith leaders simply cannot be an add-on to traditional development. That's why we believe that churches and their leaders are vital partners in our work of community development in the world's most vulnerable and fragile places. Through partnership with World Vision, churches help bring lasting change – in every dimension of life – to children, their families, and their communities.

How World Vision works with churches and faith communities in transformational development

As one of the most interdenominational Christian organisations in the world, World Vision is well placed to engage with a wide variety of churches and faith communities. World Vision can speak the language that connects to the heart of faith leaders -- inspiring pastors and priests to lead change in their congregations and communities.

World Vision's work to engage churches and faith communities in transformational development includes four critical components:

1. Establish partnerships with churches:

We take time to listen and learn, helping leaders identify the greatest needs in their communities. Together we plan, design and implement initiatives that bring transformational development to communities in need.

2. Gather and build community among churches:

World Vision invites all local churches within an area to come together and focus on the critical issues of the community where the Church can lead and bring about impact.

3. Train pastors:

Using tools, such as Channels of Hope, we equip pastors, as well as other faith leaders in multi-faith communities, to inspire and lead their congregations to become agents of change, addressing common concerns for children in their communities.

4. Support churches with tools and strategies:

World Vision has developed a variety of proven interventions and tools that empower leaders and community members to take ownership of development and bring lasting change.

Using this approach, World Vision has worked with churches and faith communities to respond to the greatest challenges of poverty facing their communities. It has also proven effective in helping churches overcome harmful cultural norms and practices in their communities, such as gender-based violence and child exploitation.

Investing in Greater Impact

We are committed to expanding and deepening our partnerships with churches and faith leaders – acting as connectors, and mobilising Christians and the Church together with other faith leaders. Churches are indispensable partners in our ministry. We plan to build on the accomplishments we made in FY16, which include:



Reaching more than **3.4 million children** through World Vision's Spiritual Nurture activities



Collaborating with more than **43,000 local church congregations** and 1,300 church networks



Growing our engagement from 182 to **556 different faith partners**



Training more than **59,000 faith leaders**, including Christian leaders, through programming models like Channels of Hope, Celebrating Families, and Empowered World View in support of economic development, child protection, and youth engagement programmes and approaches.

Sample Stories

Each Country Fact Sheet includes a story of how lives have been changed through World Vision's Church Engagement. Below are three of these stories of transformation.

World Vision Afghanistan



Sheikh, married for 25 years, has 10 boys and girls. He said, "For more than 20 years, I have been a mullah teaching Islamic subjects to children [at the mosque]; but I had never thought of helping my own children with their school homework. I was merely thinking about their food and clothing needs, nothing more. I didn't even think about how my wife was able to manage all her chores. I was only thinking about my own business and how to keep bringing in the income," he explained.

Now after participating in World Vision's Celebrating Families training, Sheikh is making different decisions about how to care for his family. He said, "I decided to start a new life. Parents' attitudes can impact children's behaviours. If a man helps his wife with chores, then his sons will help their sisters and their wives with home tasks in the future." He smiled and said, "After 25 years of married life, I started helping my wife with her chores just last month. This is the first decision I made after taking the training." His second decision: "I sit together with my children and read books, tell stories, talk to them about their future, and encourage them to do their best in their studies so that their lives can improve in the future."

World Vision Ecuador



At our “Bible, Theology, and Leadership” training programme, we work with community faith leaders, male and female pastors, catechism teachers, and Sunday school teachers. We seek to help churches shift the collective understanding from violence against children to their proper treatment and protection. This includes identifying the hermeneutic gap in the interpretation of holy texts, which has omitted care for children. We help the churches “return” to those biblical texts that had been cast aside, and which propose another model for relationships, parenting, and service in the community.

After completing the training programme, one local leader, Pastor Ramiro, said, “I didn't know those passages about children were there!” We were delighted to have met our objective, spreading the teachings and preaching the texts related to child protection, tender love for children, proper treatment of children, and children as promoters of change. In addition, we offered a study regarding the Theology of Children and then supplemented it with Servant Leadership skills.

Now, Pastor Ramiro and dozens of other trained leaders act as children’s partners and protectors. He said, “It is possible to tenderly protect and raise children when the Bible is our guide and Jesus is our role model; when we act as leaders at the service of change.”

World Vision Kenya



God has transformed me! Once I was the village drunkard, but now I want to help deliver my village mates from food insecurity. In 2015 I saw my pastor dig a dam to store rainwater for domestic use and small-scale farming. I got excited and decided to try some of the techniques he had learned. When the rains came, my earth dams filled with water and I was able to irrigate. I grew and sold vegetables, which paid for my daughter’s college fees, and I started poultry farming for my wife.

Now I’m encouraging my neighbours and relatives to dig the dams in their farms. The rainfall patterns are no longer reliable, and rainwater harvesting is the only way the community can sustain food production. I feel like the prodigal son of the Bible. God gave me a second chance in life, and now I want all who come into contact with me to get transformed so that they can be empowered to depend on themselves. My vision is for every single farm in my village, Kalawa, to have its own dam so that the food shortage problem and poverty in our community will come to an end.

Download the full set of Fact Sheets at:
<https://fundraising.wvcentral.org/ChurchEngagement>



Questions about Church Engagement Fact Sheets? Contact:

Christo Greyling | Senior Director: Faith - Advocacy & External Engagement | World Vision International

Phone: +316 2078 2313 | E-mail: Christo_greyling@wvi.org | Skype: [christogreyling640403](https://www.skype.com/profile/christogreyling640403) | Web: www.wvi.org

GLOSSARY

CORE AND ADDITIONAL PROJECT MODELS, TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR CHURCH PARTNERSHIP IN TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through **Our Promise 2030**, World Vision is strengthening the focus of our ministry. We are ensuring that programming is guided by our Global Sector Approaches and Core Project Models: evidence-based practices for maximising our contribution to children's well-being. We are also encouraging continued innovation in the field. This Glossary highlights models, tools and emerging approaches being used to help build churches' capacity to engage in transformational development in their communities. By 2020, programmes funded by sponsorship or private non-sponsorship funding are expected to be using 80% or more of their funding for Core Project Models. The remaining 20% will be available for continuing innovations.

CELEBRATING FAMILIES – [Core Project Model](#)

World Vision developed the Celebrating Families curriculum to support parents and caregivers in creating environments that foster children's spiritual development and overall well-being. The goal of Celebrating Families is to "turn the hearts of the parents towards their children." Through this tool, World Vision is helping improve the spiritual nurture of children by parents, families, churches, and even World Vision staff.

CHANNELS OF HOPE – [Core Project Model](#)

Channels of Hope is the way World Vision mobilises faith leaders and other community leaders to respond to core issues affecting their communities—such as HIV and AIDS, maternal and child health, gender equity and gender-based violence, and child protection. More than just training or education, Channels of Hope inspires and equips faith leaders and their communities to address difficult and often taboo issues that affect the rights and well-being of children. Through this process, faith leaders discover their ministry goes beyond spiritual nurture to also address the issues which prevent children and their families from experiencing fullness of life.

Channels of Hope builds leaders' knowledge, beliefs, and skills to combat the greatest sources of vulnerability and injustice in their communities. It provides pastors with a strategy for teaching the congregation and organizing them for action through programs such as small groups called CHAT (Channels of Hope Action Teams) groups.

CHRISTIAN VISION FOR ACTION – [Tool, required validation of its evidence base](#)

The purpose of Christian Vision for Action is to strengthen church leaders' learning and practice of Christian social teaching. This workshop is participatory, practical, interdenominational, culturally sensitive, and transformative.

The program design invites participants into an experience of transformation proceeding through four movements. As the day progresses, participants invite one another to confront local and global social issues in light of the ethical vision of the gospel.

CITIZEN VOICE AND ACTION – Core Project Model

Citizen Voice and Action is World Vision's primary approach to community-level advocacy. It uses a "social accountability" methodology to improve the dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services (like healthcare and education) that impact the daily lives of children and their families. "Social accountability" refers to civic engagement by communities designed to improve the government's performance.

Citizen Voice and Action works by educating citizens about their rights and equipping them with a structured set of tools that empowers them to protect and enforce those rights. First, communities learn about basic human rights and how these rights are articulated under local law. Next, communities work collaboratively with government and service providers to compare reality with the government's own commitments. Finally, communities work with other stakeholders to influence decision makers to improve services, using a simple set of advocacy tools.

DARE TO DISCOVER - Tool, requires validation of its evidence base

The Dare to Discover youth spiritual development tool seeks to support young people in their spiritual journey by creating a space and opportunity for them to further understand and experience love and grace, to deepen their sense of purpose in life, and to affirm their hope and confidence about their future. The tool was informed by a listening exercise that World Vision conducted with 224 young people from 10 countries- Albania, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Philippines, U.S., and Sri Lanka.

EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW CURRICULUM - Part of the Building Secure Livelihoods Core Project Model

The Empowered Worldview curriculum supports community transformation, working with whole communities including small stakeholders, communities, and faith groups. World Vision has used this Bible-based curriculum to help farmers adopt new attitudes and behaviours that break dependency on aid and maximize their resources to create sustainable economic development.

EMPOWERING CHILDREN AS PEACEBUILDERS (ECAP) - Guidance

The Empowering Children as Peacebuilders (ECaP) guidance brings children to the centre of conflict prevention and empowers them to be agents of change, healing, and peace, both among their peers and in their communities. Generally, the project model starts with children's and youth groups, and as it develops children become leaders and facilitators.

FAITH-BASED SAVINGS GROUPS – Part of the Saving Groups Core Project Model

Faith-Based Savings Groups work through faith leaders and agencies, increasing the likelihood that Savings Groups will become permanent and ongoing activities that benefit households and strengthening the local church's outreach even after World Vision exits. When this happens, Faith-Based Savings Groups become true achievements of sustainable development, offering benefits that contribute to faith outreach and stronger congregations, peace building, and household resilience. This sets the foundation for the Empowered World View transformations.

Faith-Based Savings Groups contribute to child well-being, maternal and child health, improved sanitation and hygiene, youth livelihoods, school attendance by girls, women's empowerment, interfaith relations, peace building, and overall household resilience.

FARMER MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION – Additional Project Model

By popularizing the concept of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), World Vision has changed how thousands of farmers manage their land, helping them cultivate buried root systems or “underground forests,” in degraded landscapes, which over time restores productivity.

FARMING GOD’S WAY – has been supersede by Building Secure Livelihoods Core Project Model

Farming God’s Way offers solutions to food security and poverty issues. Farming God’s Way has a proven track record since 1984, when Brian Oldreive first pioneered these practices in Zimbabwe on a large-scale commercial farm, eventually cropping 3,500 hectares. Since then, Farming God’s Way has spread into many countries and is used by churches, missionaries, and nonprofits across Africa.

HARMONY EDUCATION - Tool, requires validation of its evidence base

Harmony Education, a joint program between World Vision Indonesia, Wahana Visi, Poso district government, Muhammadiyah, and Central Sulawesi Christian Church, was implemented in schools in the nation to support peacemaking among students with diverse backgrounds. A similar program has also been implemented in Singkawang area with more intense focus on environmental protection. It has been adopted for use by the Indonesian government.

INTEGRATED KIDS’ CLUB CURRICULUM - a tool within the Child Protection and Advocacy Core Project Model.

In partnership with local churches, World Vision supports Kids’ Clubs that help nurture the spiritual life of children and their families. These clubs are also a forum for helping children learn about health, child protection, and the importance of education. As children learn about these critical issues, they become advocates for change in their homes and communities.

This integrated curriculum brings spiritual nurture into kids’ lives and brings child well-being issues into spiritually focused kids’ clubs, increasing the holistic impact of their children’s ministries. This is a full set of materials on water, sanitation, hygiene, child rights, peer pressure, health, etc.

“IT TAKES A WORLD TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN” – Campaign that will utilise Core and Additional Project Models to reach its Objectives.

World Vision’s new global campaign puts the organisation’s full weight behind the goal of ending violence against children, building on the lessons learned from local programmes in more than 60 countries. Specifically, we will seek to do this by: igniting movements to catalyse changes in attitudes, raise awareness, and drive courageous and effective action; strengthen prevention, response, and restorative measures to address violence against boys and girls; and increase long-term, targeted funding and ensure greater accountability for the implementation of existing and new commitments to end violence.

JESUS: THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER – Tool within the Core Project Model for WASH

“Jesus: The Source of Living Water” is a collection of Bible study lessons developed in relation to the subject of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). The curriculum relates WASH projects to biblical lessons on one of the most essential resources to mankind – water. It’s been an effective tool to strengthen the integration of Bible teachings in our development work, reflecting our approach to holistic transformation of communities. It can be adapted for both Christian and other faith contexts.

LIFE SKILLS-BASED EDUCATION (LSBE) – Within Youth Ready Additional Project Model

Life skills are a core component of a child’s or adolescent’s development. They are an integrated set of critical-thinking, personal, and interpersonal competencies that children and adolescents need to lead productive and

fulfilling lives. World Vision works to equip children from birth to 18 years of age to manage their thoughts, feelings, and expressions in daily life and in difficult situations such as poverty, crisis, conflict, and marginalisation. Children are also equipped to contribute to the well-being of their communities.

POSITIVE DEVIANCE/HEARTH (PD/HEARTH) – [Core Project Model](#)

PD/Hearth is a community-based rehabilitation and behaviour-change intervention for families with underweight preschool children. The “positive deviance” approach is used to identify behaviours practiced by the mothers or caretakers of well-nourished children from poor families and to transfer such positive practices to others in the community with malnourished children. The “hearth,” or home, is the location for the nutrition education and rehabilitation sessions.

RAISING CHILDREN WITH TENDERNESS – [Additional Project Model](#) (Latin American and the Caribbean only)

Raising Children With Tenderness is an innovative project model that supports the restoration of broken relationships, empowering members of society to coexist in justice and love, transforming violent relationships and structures towards peaceful reconciliation.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (SKYE) CLUBS – WV is no longer working with this age group within the Our Promise 2030

The Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic Empowerment (SKYE) Club model is a holistic and multi-faceted approach to helping youth (aged 18-26) develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to establish sustainable livelihoods and participate positively in their communities. The approach helps young people develop the competencies to be leaders, active citizens, and entrepreneurs, with special emphasis on life skills and employability skills.

The SKYE Club program is built on the methodology of experience-based learn-by-doing education, an approach which allows for the transformation of character, attitudes, and values, as well as growth in knowledge and skills.

TIMED AND TARGETED COUNSELLING (ttC) – [Core Project Model](#)

Timed and Targeted Counselling (ttC) refers to a community health worker/volunteer approach to extending primary healthcare counselling to the household level. This approach is built around evidence-based, cost effective key interventions for children under two and pregnant women that, when taken together, can significantly reduce maternal and infant/young child morbidity and mortality.

YOUTH READY FOR ADOLESCENTS – [Additional Project Model](#)

Youth Ready projects prepare out-of-school, unemployed, functionally illiterate youth for work and for life by providing second-chance literacy learning, life-skills training, and livelihood preparation and support.

It is an evidence-based, holistic, cross-sectoral approach to youth development that prepares adolescents and youth for economic opportunities and to contribute to the wider good and care for others as active, engaged citizens.

ABKHAZIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Abkhazian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.

Abkhazia snapshot¹

Population: 240,700

World Vision in Abkhazia²

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 180

World Vision Faith programme model used:
Celebrating Families

Community impact in Abkhazia

The church in Abkhazia has no previous experience partnering with other organisations and therefore doesn't understand how we can jointly collaborate in the areas of children's and youth ministries. After we've raised more awareness about World Vision's identity and ministries and built trustful relationships with the main church, the Abkhaz Orthodox Church, we will then explore partnership opportunities with other Christian denominations (Protestant and Catholic) as well as with Muslim faith leaders.



Challenges to child well-being in Abkhazia:

- Ongoing conflict
- Economic isolation that limits possibilities for rehabilitation and development
- Lack of church experience partnering with other organisations

¹ Abkhazia Census, 2011

² From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

The church is engaged in promoting the Spiritual Nurture of Children by visiting target communities and mobilising children and youth to promote Christian values, raise awareness on Christian history, encourage Bible reading, etc. Within our Celebrating Families project, we plan to train local priests so that they can work directly with their congregations and other communities.

Prayer request for Abkhazia

Pray that our Regional Shared Functions Support Project will roll out successfully and benefit all those involved. We pray for those leading the change and for those whose positions have been affected to find some better opportunities.

PARTNERSHIPS GROW – SLOWLY BUT STEADILY

World Vision started its programming in Abkhazia in early 2005 to improve the situation of all populations in need, focusing on projects that tackled livelihood development, food security, health, and education, providing help to the most vulnerable. World Vision has developed trust and respect as a committed development partner at multiple levels of civic society and business and among beneficiary communities. However, integrating the Christian Commitment priorities has been a challenge for a long time, due to lack of partnership and positive relationship with the Church.

Once the programme had been well-established and recognized by local stakeholders, World Vision initiated an introduction meeting with the head of the Abkhaz Orthodox Church, Fr. Vissarion, in 2011. This was the very first attempt to introduce World Vision's Christian identity to the local church, hoping to engage in dialogue and possibly cooperation. However, the local church had no previous experience of cooperation with an international organisation. The first introduction meeting was not successful; the Abkhaz Church showed no interest in engaging in any form of cooperation.

Considering the complex situation, lack of partnership, and absence of spiritual resources in the Abkhazian communities, in 2016 World Vision launched a five-year project aiming to reinforce World Vision's identity as a Christian organisation. This enables the Abkhazian staff for Christ-centred life and work, and increases the future engagement of supporters (children, youth and community members) and churches (faith leaders) for enhanced child well-being.

The main achievement since then has been the establishment of relationships with the official Church (the head of the Abkhaz Orthodox Church, Fr. Vissarion) and other faith leaders of Abkhazia. Once Fr. Vissarion granted official approval, regular interactions with local faith leaders were slowly launched. The Church Youth Ministry lead, Fr. David, learned about World Vision's "Integrate Ministry" concept and vision for holistic development. The Church Youth Ministry Leader assured us of his support and willingness to engage on World Vision project activities to contribute to sustained well-being for children and youth in Abkhazia.

To nurture positive relationships with the Church leadership, local faith leaders are also holding regular reflection meetings for the programme team. The resources invested in positive relationships with the faith leaders will prove worthy as creating opportunities for encountering and learning from each other will open new avenues for cooperation between churches and World Vision in Abkhazia.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Afghan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.

Afghanistan snapshot

Population: 35,530,000¹

Religious context: 99.8% Muslim²

World Vision in Afghanistan³

Afghanistan has no churches, but World Vision engages in interfaith action extensively with Islamic faith leaders.

Faith leaders trained: nearly 1,500 leaders

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: >2,500

Islamic context versions of World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope modules for Community Change and Child Protection

Citizen Voice and Action

Life-skills training

Gender equity/women's empowerment

Community impact in Afghanistan

Our work with religious leaders has led them to advocate at the community level and through the mosques for issues such as HIV and AIDS, maternal and child health, gender- and family-based violence prevention, child protection, education for girls, and women's empowerment.



Challenges to child well-being in Afghanistan:

- 35 years of ongoing conflict
- Government highly restricted in providing even basic services
- People, especially young people, have little hope that anything will bring about lasting change

¹ UN World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/afgh/owtext.html>

³ From FY14-16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

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Education

Through Citizen Voice and Action, Channels of Hope, and Celebrating Families, religious leaders are engaged as change agents in their communities. They are members of our Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre School Management Committees to promote the importance of early childhood education, proper parenting, and basic early childhood teaching methods, with particular focus on inclusion of female children. Some teach young children in the community mosques, offering opportunities to put their knowledge into practice.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

We are currently launching an exercise with Islamic scholars to develop a “WASH in Islam” curriculum that will be used with community religious leaders in their local contexts. World Vision continues to train religious leaders in Channels of Hope for HIV and AIDS and Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to raise awareness in their communities.



Agriculture Livelihoods

Using the Community Change approach and Celebrating Families, faith leaders have been made aware of critical social barriers to family/child well-being. These discussions have motivated male members of families to allow their spouses and other female family members to participate in income-generating activities such as vegetable growing, poultry rearing, and beekeeping, creating some profitable women-led home businesses.

Prayer request for Afghanistan

Pray that opportunities for our interfaith work will not only continue without potentially serious backlash, but that we will also have the resources to go through the many doors opening for this expanding involvement.

STARTING A NEW FAMILY LIFE AFTER 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Sheikh, married for 25 years, has 10 boys and girls. He said, “For more than 20 years, I have been a mullah teaching Islamic subjects to children [at the mosque]; but I had never thought of helping my own children with their school homework.

“I was merely thinking about their food and clothing needs, nothing more. I didn’t even think about how my wife was able to manage all her chores. I was only thinking about my own business and how to keep bringing in the income,” he explained.

Now after participating in World Vision’s Celebrating Families training, Sheikh is making different decisions about how to care for his family. He said, “I decided to start a new life. Parents’ attitudes can impact children’s behaviours. If a man helps his wife with chores, then his sons will help their sisters and their wives with home



tasks in the future.” He smiled and said, “After 25 years of married life, I started helping my wife with her chores just last month. This is the first decision I made after taking the training.”

His second decision: “I sit together with my children and read books, tell stories, talk to them about their future, and encourage them to do their best in their studies so that their lives can improve in the future.”

Every day, Sheikh looks for ways to help his children and make his wife happy. “When my wife is cooking homemade bread, I bring water and ask her if she needs me to do anything else. I am trying to reduce the amount of work on her shoulders,” Sheikh explained.

World Vision has integrated the CF training into nearly all of its projects to show the communities that they can bring about positive social change (attitudinal and behavioural) in their families and communities to increase the well-being of their children and families.

Partnering with faith communities in ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Albanian and Kosovan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Albania and Kosovo:

- Significant poverty
- Unemployment
- Inadequate child protection laws and infrastructure

Albania and Kosovo snapshot

Population: 2,930,000 Albania¹; 1,816,200 Kosovo²

Religious context: 70% Muslim, 20% Albanian Orthodox, 10% Catholic in Albania; 90% Muslim, 6% Serbian Orthodox, 3% Catholic in Kosovo³

World Vision in Albania and Kosovo⁴

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 53

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 55

Church leaders trained: 43 leaders in 53 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 6,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Citizen Voice and Action

Dare to Discover

Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic - Empowerment (SKYE) Clubs

Community impact in Albania and Kosovo

World Vision Albania and the Orthodox Church of Albania have signed a five-year national partnership of collaboration. We also have plans for national engagement with the Albanian Evangelical Alliance and local level engagement with the Catholic Church. We'll focus on:

- Encouraging spiritual and individual development of children, adolescents, and youth
- Strengthening the role of the family in Albanian society through positive parenting based on Christian values
- Equipping the church staff to effectively work with children, adolescents, youth, and parents

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² World Bank Data, 2016, <https://data.worldbank.org>

³ <http://www.operationworld.org/country/alba/owtext.html> and <http://www.operationworld.org/country/koso/owtext.html>

⁴ From FY14-16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

- Working with churches to train and build staff capacity in social ministries
- Providing further opportunities for children and youth to be involved in spiritual nurture activities
- Continuing to invite the churches to all roundtables and multidisciplinary groups for addressing child well-being issues and to be strategic partners in transforming lives in the community

World Vision Kosovo is engaging with evangelical churches to ensure child safe practices and their greater engagement in social justice and child well-being. Given the local context, however, engaging the larger Serbian Orthodox Church remains problematic. World Vision will continue to explore the value of interfaith work to raise awareness and mobilise faith communities around child well-being issues. We are starting a new project to improve and strengthen the relationship among different religions and denominations. This project will focus on working directly with religious leaders as well as with children and youth; it will include exchange visits and conferences/roundtables involving representatives from various Christian denominations. We also are encouraging religious leaders to describe their health and life-skills related work as part of their long-term commitment to supporting the well-being of the people they serve, especially the most vulnerable. This includes a focus on rural or difficult-to-reach communities where the government health and life-skills programmes are weak or non-existent.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches are part of roundtable discussions and participate in workshops on inclusion of children with disabilities. The Catholic Church and educational state structures are exchanging information about challenges and successes in working with children with disabilities. Churches and faith-based organisations also participate in networks that are helping to establish the “School as a Community Centre” model.



Child Protection

Churches are part of the networks or groups of partners that address child protection issues. They are trained on different topics related to child protection, child rights, child rearing, and positive parenting (Celebrating Families training). Churches provide case management for abused children and offer support to the Child Protection partners’ network in the community. Other faith leaders are participating in special conferences and discussions addressing Child Protection and Education issues.



Youth

World Vision has worked with churches to strengthen youth ministry by training the youth pastors and church leaders on youth project models (IMPACT and SKYE clubs, and the spiritual development youth model called “Dare to Discover”). The churches are implementing these youth models.

Prayer request for Albania and Kosovo

Pray for the most vulnerable children and youth, particularly children with special needs. Pray for peacebuilding between ethnicities and religions in Kosovo, more opportunities for young people instead of being recruited into ISIS, and more hope for people of this country (versus emigration to other European countries).

Pray that children and young people in Albania may grow protected from every kind of violence, may experience the love of God, may have hope and vision for the future, and may reach the full potential God has planned for each of them.

“CELEBRATING FAMILIES” TRAINING HELPS PARENTS RISE ABOVE EVERYDAY PARENTING PRESSURES

Lorenc Ahmet, pastor of the evangelical church in Korca, Albania, is a happy husband and the father of two young children, Simon (age 4) and Hana (age 2). He says:

During this time I have learned and continue to learn how to educate and teach my children in the best way possible. Above all, I want to be a positive example for my children.

I feel privileged that I had the opportunity to be part of the "Celebrating Families" training with other church leaders. When I heard about the training, what first impressed me was the title, "Celebrating Families." At this time, it seems that the family has lost its importance; it seems that indifference and selfishness are suffocating the family.

I was very touched to learn how this training came into existence – that a child had asked his parents to help get him back to their hearts, and a parent wanted help in raising children. I am really touched by the humbleness of the parent who asked to learn more.

I have seen parents face real challenges in raising their children; they are unprepared to create a safe and loving environment in their families. That's why this training is a great tool to support. Being a parent is a difficult role, but it's a role we have to play properly to influence our children's lives and the well-being of our family. This was one of the things I learned during "Celebrating Families" training to reflect on the responsibility of my role as a parent to guide, support and create a healthy environment for my children to learn and grow.

During the training I met new people, but I also got to know some previous acquaintances better. I learned a lot from open discussions and teamwork. I understand that we can learn from the positive experience of other parents, and we can support one another in daily parenting challenges.

I learned the most from the "Envisioning the Future" module of the training, specifically the part that relates to the recognition of children's developmental stages. It is very important to know and understand the stages of your child's growth and support them. As a parent of two children, this module taught me to know my child better, and to understand how he or she grows.

Since I am a pastor, I would like all the families in my church to have the opportunity to go through this reflection and learning experience. I am aware of the families' needs at the church I lead, and I also understand that the themes and teachings are based on the Word of God. "Celebrating Families" will encourage not only Christian families, but also all families that have the opportunity to take this training, to really reflect and celebrate with their families and not to fall under the pressure of everyday family challenges.

God bless you, and I wish you only celebration in your families.

ANGOLA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Angolan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Angola:

- Child marriages, teen pregnancies, and lack of child birth registration
- Geographic distance between churches, and a disinterest in church collaboration
- Child sexual abuse

Angola snapshot

Population: 29,784,000¹

Religious context: 50% Roman Catholic, 35% Christian, 10% Indigenous beliefs, 5% Evangelical Brazilian

World Vision in Angola²

Partner church networks: 1

Individual church partners: 8

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 1

Church leaders trained: 30 leaders in 7 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 10,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Empowered Worldview (savings and credit groups)

Kids' Clubs

Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Celebrating Families

Community impact in Angola

We have seen the greatest impact when we reached out to almost 150 representatives from churches/faith networks at a national conference. Some of the partner churches set up savings and credit groups, involving 250 women from various denominations.

Church leaders have engaged in advocacy through their participation in Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Celebrating Families workshops and seminars. They then disseminate the information among church members.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

To facilitate hygiene and sanitation practices, churches use a biblical approach; other religious leaders also integrate their faiths with the sanitation practices.



Child Protection

We have begun to partner with churches on Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Celebrating Families.

Prayer request for Angola

Pray for God's guidance and wisdom for World Vision in how to strengthen partnerships with the church and other faith-based organisations.

DRYING THE TEARS OF WAR

Father Marcelino Pungulimue, a priest in Angola, has been managing a boys' home, "Casa dos Rapazes," for three years. Father Marcelino explains proudly that the home was founded by a Portuguese priest, Antonio Ferreira da Silva, in August 1955. He wanted to protect vulnerable and homeless boys, victims of social injustice, by providing them with education and the tools necessary to be reintegrated in society.

World Vision Angola has been working in close partnership with community faith-based organisations and recently established a new agreement to expand social development projects with churches. The main objectives of this project are: to provide partners with the tools and skills that contribute to child well-being, raise awareness of child protection issues, and highlight the importance of a peaceful and loving environment for spiritual nurture of children. To accomplish the goals of this partnership and to sustainably empower communities, World Vision Angola is training church partners, staff, and others.

Over the years, Angola's civil war has left its mark not only on infrastructures, but it has also deprived children of a safe environment. Nationwide peace was achieved in 2003. Now the main objective of the Boys' Home is not only to provide these children with a supportive and welcoming shelter but also to create mechanisms for developing their skills and talents.

"The idea is to empower our Christian partners to develop practitioners with measurable contributions to child well-being," says Gloria Miti, Project Manager. Father Marcelino created an arts and crafts office to teach carpentry, locksmithery, typography, agricultural mechanics, and shoemaking. According to Father Marcelino, the art and craft centre gives them hope for a better future; when they leave the Home, they can reintegrate into society and also use their skills for income.

Father Aurelio Manuel, also a church leader, says that his own story is just one among the painful stories of war. With tears on his face, he told of a brutal and painful childhood. But, he said, "Channels of Hope, World Vision's initiative, will help to dry the tears." Church leaders in Angola will be able to use lessons learnt from Channels of Hope workshops to build strong Christian networks and caring communities.

ARMENIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Armenian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Armenia:

- Lack of enactment of child protection laws and services
- Culturally-driven harmful child care or parenting practices
- Lack of awareness of child rights and responsibilities

Armenia snapshot

Population: 2,930,000¹

Religious context: 96% Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, 4% Other²

World Vision in Armenia³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 31

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 2

Church leaders trained: 32 leaders in 16 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 4,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Gender; and for Child Protection

Community impact in Armenia

The World Vision Council has representatives from the Catholic Church and Armenian Evangelical Church. We are considering the possibility of joint fundraising along with the evangelical church. We're also planning to expand these partnerships with evangelical church social centres around community development.

Especially at a local level, faith leaders are periodically involved in advocacy actions. Local church leaders were influential in resolving some community and family problems by appealing directly to relevant state structures.

At the national level, we are engaged with the Church to have a joint action and vision, working to end child violence via the framework of the End Violence Against Children project leadership.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/arme/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

The church collaborates with social workers to address the issues of vulnerable families and communities with World Vision work. World Vision engages priests and other faith leaders in child protection work using the Celebrating Families model. We support vulnerable families by strengthening their parenting skills (including use of positive discipline) and also by promoting the spiritual nurture of their children.



Gender Equality, Youth Engagement

We are currently adapting the Channels of Hope model, which local church leaders and Christian youth organisations will then implement.



Advocacy

The church collaborates with the global It Takes a World campaign to address family violence issues from a united perspective.

Prayer request for Armenia

WV Armenia has started a new endeavour with the local church, aimed at adapting a Channels of Hope model and working with communities and Christian youth organisations. (See priority 2 above.) Pray that the collaboration with the church will be effective, and that World Vision may successfully implement the new model for our communities' transformation and peace.

BELIEF IN A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH CELEBRATING FAMILIES

Life challenges are paramount for most families living in Armenia, especially for the most vulnerable. Lack of stable income, minimum living conditions, and lack of resources and skills are among the main causes. These go hand in hand with hopelessness and lack of belief in the future, which are deeply rooted in the minds of most vulnerable people.

According to the World Bank, the poverty rate in Armenia is more than 75 per cent⁴. In response, empowerment of vulnerable families is at the core of World Vision's work. We seek to provide necessary and timely support, helping them to become more resilient and ensuring their children's well-being.



⁴ <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/765141475652153740/Armenia-Snapshot-Oct2016FINAL.pdf>

Celebrating Families is designed to help families re-evaluate their past and present, while giving tools to build a better future – to improve families' life skills and resilience and help create safe and loving environments for their children.

Forty-one vulnerable families in Gegharkunik participated in the programme. It was a journey of transformation that gave hope, faith, and the opportunity to consider God's love and the love of family and children.

The programme also focused on child-rearing approaches, helping families to acquire more positive practices. Mothers stated that they would now spend more time with their children and try to boost their children's love of education. "I will change a lot of things in my child's upbringing. I will be more caring. This programme was very useful and changed many things within me, in my approach towards people and children's

upbringing," said Ruzan, a programme participant. Parents mentioned that from now on they would pay more attention to what their children say and feel, rather than imposing their views on the children.

Another participant, Hermine, said: "I gained peace. I was looking forward to every meeting. I gained belief in God and in a better future. I started to go to church more often. I understood that a harmonious family is the most important thing to have. I changed my approach in child-rearing. Very often we do not let children express their thoughts freely or think independently. It was a very positive programme, which gave me a lot."



Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Bangladeshi communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Bangladesh:

- Early marriages
- Inadequate infrastructure for health and education
- Lack of trained child ministry workers

Bangladesh snapshot

Population: 164,670,000¹

Religious context: 83% Muslim, 16% Hindu, 1% Other²

World Vision in Bangladesh³

Partner church networks: 7

Individual church partners: 259

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 81

Church leaders trained: 735 leaders in 222 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 5,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Community impact in Bangladesh

World Vision has seen success partnering with churches to improve literacy and primary education, and partnering with faith-based organisations for effective advocacy. We plan to expand our partnerships among Christian denominations by using Channels of Hope to catalyse churches for child protection; engaging churches and faith communities in the It Takes a World campaign; and engaging youth through life skills-based leadership.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/bang>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Advocacy and Child Protection

Churches and other faith-based organisations engage in advocacy and child protection through interfaith platforms, interdenominational committees, workshops, and facilitator training for Channels of Hope, and through the start of Channels of Hope Action Teams.



Education

Through an Early Childhood Development Centre, WV Bangladesh applies a children's moral value development module with spiritual nurture and moral development. WV Bangladesh also builds the capacity of parents and churches to support children's spiritual nurture and as well as positive parenting through Celebrating Family Project Models.



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

We will build churches' capacity and awareness on DRR issues, and activate a group of pastors to provide pastoral support during disaster situations.



Economic Empowerment

We will increase economic development and resilience through religious leaders' participation in various awareness-building programs, particularly concerning the empowerment of women.



Sponsorship

Children, irrespective of race, religion, culture, and ethnicity, participate in World Vision Bangladesh's sponsorship programs. World Vision Bangladesh also engages the local churches and Christian NGOs in sponsorship programmes through sponsorship networks and ensures that the minority poor Christian community and its children are registered and actively participates in sponsorship programmes in all ADP areas.

Prayer request for Bangladesh

Pray for transformed Christian leadership, so that leadership skills and interest in social concerns may increase. Pray also that faith and development may be well-integrated with our organisational strategy, structure, and programs as we increase our collaboration with churches, Christian organisations, and other faith-based organisations.

AWARENESS CHANGES ATTITUDES: Mohammed Shifikul Islam

Child protection is a very serious issue for the country of Bangladesh; physical violence against children is staggeringly high at home, school, and the workplace.

I am president of a mosque committee and advisor for a mosque in the Dhaka East ADP Area of Bangladesh, and I have seen Channels of Hope Action Teams (CHAT) motivate faith leaders and instil positive attitudes and action for child protection.

The Muslim community was once not interested in dealing with social issues, especially with the rights and protection of girl children. I am now proud to say that, because of training and awareness-building events from Islamic perspectives, attitudes have changed. Parents and teachers are aware that verbal abuse and physical punishments are not useful in bringing up and teaching the children. The religious leaders, especially the imams and madrasa teachers, are now aware of children's rights, and they know that their ways of disciplining children were not right. Even my own view of Islam and Christianity has been changed, and I discovered the great benefit of the religious teaching and values for interreligious relations.



BOLIVIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Bolivian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Bolivia:

- Neglect of children's rights in families, school systems and communities

Bolivia snapshot

Population: 11,052,000¹

Religious context: 65% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 5% Other²

World Vision in Bolivia³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 150

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 11

Church leaders trained: 396 leaders in 150 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 14,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope for Gender
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs
Safe Churches
Tenderness Starts at Home
Youth and Transformation

Community impact in Bolivia

Churches play an active part in the various campaigns that World Vision launches, and they replicate these campaigns among their congregations and parishes. They are an integral part of the plan for integrating the global campaign It Takes a World.

The Kairos Church is one of several churches working hard for children's well-being, supporting the ALALAY child centre in various areas. Also, the Ekklesia Church has an active social aid department that supports families with greater needs. One of its projects is establishing a Children's Home in the Achocalla area.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/boli/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches are constantly joining as Health Network Partners in support of our health effort. We work particularly at disease prevention, including campaigns about Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, vaccination, and deworming, as well as campaigns for special health cases, people living with HIV or AIDS, and orphans and vulnerable children. In addition, churches support the Water and Social Control Committees. Faith-based organisations, religious leaders, and Christian individuals have committed to making their best efforts to help solve these health problems and critical water and sanitation situations. They participate as facilitators or local volunteers in health campaigns, advising families in health and nutrition matters, disability awareness, community care of people living with HIV or AIDS, care of orphan and vulnerable children, and with other prevention and social control actions.



Child Protection

Churches play a basic role in child protection since they host entire families and, in most cases, provide a space for their members to develop freely and to create strong bonds and relationships. Our work has been carried out with this in mind, raising awareness of child protection issues and providing church leaders with support tools so they can offer first-aid assistance to children, adolescents, youth, and the elderly when they become aware of people suffering acts of violence. We have also provided various trainings based on child protection, including: Channels of Hope for Child Protection; Celebrating Families; Safe Churches; Parent's School; and programmes addressed to church leaders. In addition, our church leaders' awareness-raising efforts have caught the interest of a specific church that is making an effort to draft and implement Childhood and Youth Protection internal policies.

Prayer request for Bolivia

Pray that God will continue to lend His support to World Vision at all levels, that every collaborator may work in unity that brings out teamwork, synergy, stewardship, and integrity.

GOOD HEALTH FOR EVERY BOY AND GIRL – IN BOLIVIA, AND BEYOND

Faith-based organisations, religious leaders, and Christian individuals have committed to making their best efforts to help solve health problems and critical water and sanitation situations because we believe that every boy and girl deserves good health, nutrition, and clean water.

World Vision also mobilised churches and church volunteers to advocate for children beyond Bolivia's borders during the Ecuador Earthquake and the natural disasters in Haiti; WV Bolivia was at the forefront of fundraising on the streets.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Bosnian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Political tensions between different ethnic parties/groups
- Lack of implementation of legislation pertaining to child protection and education

Bosnia and Herzegovina snapshot

Population: 3,507,000¹

Religious context: 40% Muslim, 31% Orthodox, 15% Catholic, 14% Other²

World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 54

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 4

Church leaders trained: 21 leaders in 25 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 5,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Community impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, World Vision partners with the Roman Catholic Church, Serbian Orthodox Church, Protestant churches, and the Islamic and Jewish communities. Interfaith peace building is integrated into all World Vision activities in partnering communities, implemented in close cooperation with faith partners.

Faith leaders are members of child protection coalitions, which are currently being formed in partnering communities; they will actively engage in local and national level advocacy for Child Protection. We also partner with churches using Channels of Hope and Celebrating Families.

Churches and faith communities have tremendous influence in their respective communities. The Rhythm of Peace project, implemented by World Vision and funded by the U.S. Embassy, was developed to promote reconciliation among different ethnic, religious, and cultural groups through interaction and tolerance.

¹ United Nations, World Statistic Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/bosn/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

It engaged faith leaders to work with youth from eight neighbouring municipalities that were involved in conflict during the war.

Through Rhythm of Peace, they learned open and honest dialogue as a means of peace-building. They learned how to overcome difficulties in communicating, how to clearly express their views without offending others, and to combat stereotypes and prejudices. The selected youth later initiated their own small projects, which were perceived as tremendously positive changes in their respective context.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches and faith communities work with World Vision on Spiritual Nurture activities as a part of life-skills development. Religious education is part of the primary school curriculum.



Child Protection

Faith leaders and religion teachers in Orthodox and Muslim communities engage through the Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Celebrating Families models.



Youth Engagement

World Vision cooperates with faith partners on youth ministry through implementation of SKYE Clubs, currently piloted in four partnering communities.

Prayer request for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Pray that administrative shifts will help us continue joint efforts for children and youth ministry. May we have a sustainable and efficient impact in partnering communities, which will bring the promise of God's kingdom closer to children and youth.

FIRST CHRISTMAS IN LASTVA

Although often the stories we hear are complex and heart-breaking, sometimes simple gestures can make huge changes in the lives of our little beneficiaries.

Last Christmas in the small village of Lastva, World Vision and the priest from a partnering church in Eastern Sarajevo organised a Saint Nikolas workshop for children ages 7 to 14. As a part of the workshop, children received small Christmas gifts with sweets and school materials.

This story wouldn't be at all unusual – except that many of these children confessed to the priest delivering the gifts that it was the first time in their lives they had received a Christmas gift. The children said they are celebrating their first Christmas ever, and that for the first time they felt that it was their holiday, too.

BRAZIL

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Brazilian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Brazil:

- Churches' lack of understanding of the importance of children to the Kingdom of God
- Lack of inclusion of child and adolescent themes on pastors' and church leaders' agendas

Brazil snapshot

Population: 209,288,000¹

Religious context: 91% Christian, 5% Animist²

World Vision in Brazil³

Partner church networks: 40

Individual church partners: 396

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 36

Church leaders trained: 2,260 leaders in 396 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 14,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Bible Reading Practices

Children's clubs

Christian Vision for Action

Churches for the Children

Citizen Voice and Action

Community Bible Reading

Knowledge Box

Community impact in Brazil

Our "Churches for the Children" project strives to present realistic options for local churches so that they get involved in transforming their communities by working with children.

We are partnering with UNICEF in a "Peace and Protection Movement" project that aims to raise awareness and mobilise leaders from different religions toward the protection of children. This movement's first priority is to eliminate the lack of birth registration of Brazilian children; at present, thousands of children are entirely alienated from public policies and protection due to a lack of documents.

We plan to organise a theological consultation in which the main religions present their sacred texts' perspective on children, based on the guiding question: "How is the child seen from his/her religious tradition?" The consultation would also aim to define a common child protection strategy among the various religions.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/braz/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Marketing and Fundraising

Today our main donors and sponsors originate from the churches. The churches have prayed and contributed in a systematic way to the support of the World Vision ministry in Brazil. Many pastors have a prayer campaign for the World Vision ministry and encourage their members to contribute financially and with prayers.



Partnerships

World Vision Brazil reviewed its strategy for the next few years and decided to select the Protestant Church as their main ministry partner.



Advocacy

The church participates by assisting with political pressure, especially when we realize that children's rights are being threatened. The church is also a prayer partner for the most vulnerable children, by offering facilities for community meetings and opening the temple doors for community use during the week. Other religious leaders are involved in praying and contributing.

Prayer request for Brazil

Pray that God may provide us with the right people on our team to do the work with churches – people who are committed to Jesus and his Kingdom, and also understand the society and church in contemporary Brazil.

SEEKING BIRTH REGISTRATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. Manuel is a middle-aged man, a member of a Pentecostal church in the region surrounding Fortaleza, one of the most violent cities in Brazil. He likely attended just a few years of elementary school. But Mr. Manuel took on the cause of children without a birth certificate as his great missionary action. He travels 50 kilometres by bicycle or motorcycle to visit registry offices to register a child or teenager without a birth certificate.

The area where Mr. Manuel lives and works is an area of the city with the highest number of children and teenagers without birth certificates. But without this basic document, a child cannot enroll in school or be included in governmental social programmes. Mr. Manuel's goal is that no child be without a birth certificate, and consequently, that no child be out of school.

Today, the registration of births is public policy in the municipality of Fortaleza, thanks in part to Mr. Manuel's great contribution before the public authorities in raising awareness of this birth registration issue.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Burundian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Burundi:

- Harmful religious and cultural practices (including alcoholism and polygamy)
- Church fragmentation, mistrust, and disunity
- Minimal theological background in many churches

Burundi snapshot

Population: 10,864,000¹

Religious context: 75% Christian, 20% Indigenous, 5% Muslim²

World Vision in Burundi³

Partner church networks: 24

Individual church partners: 183

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 20

Church leaders trained: 802 leaders in 183 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 85,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Empowered Worldview
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Burundi

We plan to strengthen our partnerships with churches and faith-based organisations at the national level to promote local level partnerships. We'll use the Empowered Worldview approach in partnership with churches and expose local church leadership to successful projects run by their colleagues. We will also train them on Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, Channels of Hope for Gender, Channels of Hope for Child Protection, the spiritual nurture of children, etc.

Churches will fully engage in the It Takes a World campaign, with focus on child neglect. Faith leaders have also been engaged in other campaigns, including Global Week of Action, national and international advocacy events (International Women's Day; African Child Day; 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, etc.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/buru/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Advocacy work can also improve both the health and educational infrastructures, as access to water and sanitation is limited and the distances to schools and health institutions are significant.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Integrated Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches promote maternal child health through Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, in collaboration with Congregational Hope Action Teams. They also engage through hygiene and sanitation promotion and water and sanitation infrastructures management.



Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan

The Catholic Church engages through various dioceses organisations, including monitoring and caring for children and implementing programme activities. They also manage sponsorship, targeting beneficiaries, monitoring the spiritual nurture of all children (including children registered in the sponsorship programme), and collaborating with potential donors. They organise opportunities to celebrate the International Day of the African Child and help to sensitise the community on child protection. They provide spiritual nurture of children through Sunday school programmes and Christian religion education in primary and secondary schools. They raise parents' awareness on child care through Sunday sermons and teachings and participated in various trainings, including Empowered Worldview.



Education

Churches engage by building capacity for teachers and jointly implementing the Literacy Boost and Early Childhood Development programmes. They also sensitise community representatives on the importance of preschool education, train School Management Committee members on preschool management, and conduct workshops on preschool methodologies. Other religious leaders also offer support in spiritual nurture in primary schools and participate in reading camps.



Integrated Food and Nutrition Security

Churches participate through community-based rehabilitation and behaviour change intervention (for families with underweight preschool children) through the PD/Hearth intervention approach. They also implement the Timed and Targeted Counselling approach and have created health-focused community group approach. Other faith leaders also provide messages to congregations on nutrition through sermons and participate in trainings on Channels of Hope for Gender.

Prayer request for Burundi

Pray that enough donors will give so that World Vision Burundi can respond to the malaria outbreak, malnutrition and food insecurity.

CHANGING UNDERSTANDING OF BIRTH CONTROL TO PROMOTE CHILD WELL-BEING

"Since my church is involving itself in changing attitudes about birth control, there are good results to celebrate in my church," said Reverend Bangirinama Marc from Friends Evangelical Church (Quakers) in Gitega province, in the central part of the country.

Reverend Marc is a member of Channels of Hope Congregational Team under the Ramba grant project within his church. The team is responsible for sensitising couples on the well-being of the child and the mother through birth spacing.

In Burundi, birth control by using modern contraceptive methods is a topic that divides people in some churches; some believe that such methods are against the divine law of multiplying. But Reverend Marc said that in the Friends Evangelical Church (Quakers) in Burundi, people should analyse their family situation and adhere to the method of their choice.

"As a religious leader, I am opposed to the messages that adopting such methods is nothing but killing or against divine law," said Reverend Marc. "I think that even giving birth to children that someone is not able to provide for is against the divine law," he added.

CAMBODIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Cambodian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Cambodia:

- Malnutrition and violence against children (trafficking, child labour, sexual abuse)
- Harmful community attitudes towards children and poverty, and poor government protection systems
- Poor quality of education

Cambodia snapshot

Population: 16,005,000¹

Religious context: 82% Buddhist, 8% Indigenous beliefs, 3% Muslim²

World Vision in Cambodia³

Partner church networks: 11

Individual church partners: 392

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 36

Church leaders trained: 596 leaders in 392 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 73,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Citizen Voice and Action

Empowered Worldview

Kids' Clubs

Shining Light Curriculum – Holistic Development

Theological Education by Extension

Timothy Leadership Training

Community impact in Cambodia

In Cambodia, the legacy of the Pol Pot years and the following civil war have left trust levels quite low. Addressing this trust issue is critical for us to be able to improve child well-being.

World Vision works with 385 churches and other partners, including: Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC), the large umbrella church denomination comprised of 70% of the churches in Cambodia; New Life Fellowship of Cambodia; and Wholistic Development Organization, to provide holistic development training to church pastors and leaders. This training helps churches to identify their own and the community's issues, and then to come up with solutions. To solve these issues, churches learn to create micro-projects using their own resources (including labour).

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/camb/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

We also work with Theological Education by Extension, a highly mobile and effective system of training within the local context to provide biblical foundations for local pastors and church leaders.

We plan to also work with Mission Kampuchea 2021, a church planting organisation, to explore the Celebrating Recovery model (a Christ-centred recovery program), and to conduct a workshop with Buddhist monks to contextualize and use Channels of Hope for Child Protection in their context.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Nutrition

Many rural churches offer hair washing and nail cutting for children. Some rural churches have clean water wells and water filter containers, and some have hand-washing stations for children. All churches in rural areas have toilets for children, and some churches provide enriched porridge.



Child Protection and Combating Domestic Violence

Church pastors and leaders have been trained in Celebrating Families, and they replicate this workshop in their congregations and communities. Many Congregational Hope and Action Team (CHAT) groups have formed through Channels of Hope for Child Protection. We plan to also conduct a Channels of Hope for Child Protection contextualised workshop with Buddhist monks.



Advocacy and Justice

Through Channels of Hope, we trained church pastors/leaders and congregations to speak out about child protection and empowered them to work with existing local government bodies for child protection. Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist leaders attend End Violence Against Children workshops and the Day of Prayer and Action for Children.



Education and Life Skills

Some churches provide English teaching, arts, and Cambodian traditional dancing and music classes to children and youth. Some churches provide children's clubs, youth clubs, and child-friendly spaces.

Prayer request for Cambodia

Pray that our team would be made up of people of faith who have a passion for service, and that the Lord would use our open hearts for a mighty work for His glory.

FINDING HOPE AND HAPPINESS THROUGH CELEBRATING FAMILIES



Soknit Doeun is 35 years old and has two children. He lives with a disability and in poor conditions. Before Soknit's family believed in God, Soknit always drank alcohol, argued with his wife, and disciplined his children through beatings and insults. He said, "I felt stressed sometimes, got drunk, and I never encouraged the children to go to school."

But in 2013, Soknit's wife, Sokmon Yoeun, became involved in World Vision's sponsorship programme as a volunteer in child monitoring. One day, she brought her husband to attend Celebrating Families training coordinated by World Vision and a local home church.

Soknit and his family reflected together and learned about building peace, sharing love, and understanding the good news of Jesus Christ. With the local pastor's support, Soknit's family came to believe in God, and in late 2015 he started to become involved in the Sunday worship activity at church.

"My family is so happy now and we live with hope. World Vision helped to build capacity to my family in terms of child protection, Celebrating Families concepts, and constructing a well near my house, so that we are able to easily access clean water," Soknit said.

Soknit's wife, Sokmon, said, "At home, my husband always helps to educate children in reading books and stories about God's Word to us."

Soknit's son, Chomnour Sokhem, is 7 years old and studying in Grade 1. He said, "I very much enjoy going to school with my friends, and my parents help me. My parents usually practise love and care in the family, and they encourage me to go to school regularly."



CHAD

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Chadian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Chad:

- Poor governance and lack of basic infrastructure, particularly in health, education, and utilities
- Limited family incomes
- Negative cultural practices or traditions

Chad snapshot

Population: 14,900,000¹

Religious context: 55% Muslim, 27% Christian, 16% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Chad³

Partner church networks: 2

Individual church partners: 350

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 5

Church leaders trained: 637 leaders in 46 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 5,678

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Citizen Voice and Action

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Chad

Celebrating Families has been used with 480 families in four ADPs in the country.

We plan to involve churches in the design and implementation of development programmes, create formal partnerships, and develop local churches' skills in advocacy for child well-being.

We plan to create a framework for collaboration between different denominations on issues relating to child well-being and develop religious leaders' skills in areas relating to the promotion of child protection and well-being.

We also plan to create a framework for collaboration among different religious actors – an interfaith platform to promote issues relating to child well-being.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/chad/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

The major Christian churches have over 800 elementary and secondary schools across the country. The church works with communities and World Vision in this sector.



Health

Churches help to raise awareness and monitor vaccination activities – to eradicate preventable diseases in children from birth to 11 months of age, as well as waterborne diseases. Some churches have centres to combat malnutrition.



Economic Development

Some churches have grain banks and agropastoral farms. Community members benefit from agropastoral activities.

Prayer request for Chad

We pray for full church involvement in development activities and for the Support Office Church Engagement group to have the funding to help us carry out activities for child well-being.

LIFE-CHANGING FORGIVENESS AFTER JUST ONE TRAINING SESSION

One imam had not spoken to his little brother for 40 years. But immediately after the first Celebrating Families training session, he went to forgive his brother and to seek his forgiveness.

CHILE

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Chilean communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Chile:

- Lack of national policies for comprehensive child protection
- Lack of awareness of and skills related to child protection

Chile snapshot

Population: 18,055,000¹

Religious context: 87.2% Christian, 10.4% None, 2.4% Other²

World Vision in Chile³

Partner church networks: 13

Individual church partners: 62

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 3

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 425

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Healthy and Safe Churches

Password

Youth and Transformation

Community impact in Chile

Working with churches in support of children makes a huge impact. We are developing local and nation-wide participation strategies and plans that can cover Channels of Hope for Children Protection, Healthy and Safe Churches, Password, and Youth and Transformation.

Evangelical churches show greater interest in making a difference in children's well-being. We are currently developing a two-year plan to work with Christian churches in all their forms.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/chil/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

We are working to transfer the methodologies of Password, Youth and Transformation, Channels of Hope for Child Protection, and Sexual Abuse Prevention so that the trained church staff can replicate them and expand their impact, reaching more members of the community.

At San Carlos, this year's challenge is to strengthen the "Collera" youth work group to continue offering the Youth and Transformation workshops. Once finalised, we hope to continue training this group on the Password workshop, so they can then replicate the methodology in different areas of the community.



Disaster Management

Churches act as response facilitators, using their infrastructure as supply collection centres and distributing incoming aid and donations.

Prayer request for Chile

Please pray for guidance for our leadership – for clarity and wisdom in all current and future changes and decisions. Pray that we may strengthen our Christian identity and our work with churches.

TRAINING COMMUNITIES TO DEAL WITH THE TABOO SUBJECT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the San Carlos community, we have successfully discussed the topic of Child Protection. The new challenge is to develop Social Assistance Programmes together with the church in some community sectors. This process has seen its share of problems, given that some people still resist the "taboo" topic of sexual abuse. However, those involved in offering these programmes have been well-received by families and the community in general. People feel the need to raise awareness about this issue and to take steps to prevent sexual abuse.

We began by offering Password workshops at the San Carlos Borromeo Parish and the Comunidad Cristiana Evangelical Church. The Parish was interested in continuing the process. They understand the topic of sexual abuse as part of their mandate, and welcomed World Vision's assistance and partnership. In addition, the Parish priest of San Carlos decided to share the Sexual Abuse Prevention training with 18 catechism students of the community from nine groups. These students are now responsible to replicate these workshops among the families and children of their respective communities. Thus far, three have achieved this goal and the remaining groups are expected to achieve this goal during the year.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Colombian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Colombia:

- Lack of nutrition and food security
- Harmful parenting and educational practices
- Trauma due to war

Colombia snapshot

Population: 49,066,000¹

Religious context: 71% Catholic, 17% Evangelical, 12% Other²

World Vision in Colombia³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 700

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 7

Church leaders trained: 30 leaders in 216 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 122,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:
Channels of Hope

Community impact in Colombia

The Global Network of Religions for Children has been very important in implementing efforts with faith-based organisations, churches, and children's organisations. For example, at the International Forum of Religions for Children held in Bogotá in July 2016, several organisations came together to raise awareness of and build commitment for the protection and promotion of children.

Churches promote training sessions, provide spaces for reflection, and engage in activities related to the Protection of Children. They also work cooperatively to provide special projects and/or take systematic measures to raise greater awareness of children's needs.

Through World Vision Colombia 61,000 sponsored children and 122,000 unregistered children participated in spiritual nurture activities. World Vision Colombia has also focused on the promotion of public policies, seeking to influence public development plans to transform conditions that do not allow a full life for children or adolescents.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/colo/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

We have a formal partnership with churches and faith-based organisations through Fasting in Solidarity, to break the silence and promote the commitment to protect children. This involves both human and physical resources. Churches are discussing the possibility of promoting themselves as safe spaces that protect and support childhood by establishing protocols and actions related to the formal child protection system. They would train themselves, multiply this training, and promote strategies to apply the protocols. Church and other religious leaders also take part in training programmes to create child-friendly spaces as a psycho-social assistance strategy during natural disasters and as humanitarian aid.



Health and Nutrition

Churches and faith-based organisations promote positive parenting guidelines through the Tender Parenting strategy. Training programmes particularly focus on the importance of affection for children's development. Churches spread this message within their communities. Through Channels of Hope, we have held awareness-raising workshops on HIV and AIDS every year with church leaders across the Caribbean region. Partnering with a mega-church (with about 75,000 followers) called Centro Cristiano, we carried out an emergency-response activity to fight the Zika virus in Cucuta, one of the worst hit areas of the country, near the border with Venezuela.



Education

In strategic partnership with churches and/or similarly principled organisations, we are using the Jesus, Source of Living Water Bible study guide in the development of values, community biblical reading, and reading and imagination areas to spiritually nurture children

Prayer request for Colombia

Pray for those children who have left and are leaving armed groups with whom negotiations have been (and continue to be) made. Pray for communities that receive relocated people, and for society in general, to promote truth, justice, reparation, and non-recurrence of these processes. Also, pray that churches and faith-based organisations may provide answers from different standpoints as part of the reconciliation process.

PARTNERING TO BUILD PEACE

World Vision was able to contribute to the second draft of the peace agreement between the government and the FARC-EP through roundtable work with the Council of Evangelical Churches of Colombia's Peace Committee. The second draft of the agreement was approved in Congress and is now being implemented. During the agreement process and at the roundtables, we were able to contribute through dialogue with renowned media leaders, at meetings with state officials, and at meetings with members of faith-based organisations.

COSTA RICA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Costa Rican communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Costa Rica:

- Harmful practices including physical punishment, sexual violence, and neglect
- Unequal implementation of government benefits for children
- Lack understanding of child rights and development

Costa Rica snapshot

Population: 4,906,000¹

Religious context: 94% Christian, 6% None²

World Vision in Costa Rica³

Partner church networks: 2

Individual church partners: 14

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 32

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 5,500

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families (implemented successfully, but not maintained due to lack of resources)

Channels of Hope (tested successfully, but not maintained due to lack of resources)

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Costa Rica

Churches provide assistance to children and adolescents at risk or in highly vulnerable social groups through humanitarian aid programmes. In addition, many of the provisional care shelters and institutions for abandoned children and at-risk children are managed by religious or church-related associations. Many churches also have educational programmes to help children.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/cost/owtext.html>

³ From FY14-16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



National Advocacy

Churches work conjointly within the network, positioning faith-based organisations to impact public policies that benefit children and adolescents.



Sponsorship

We train church leaders who work with children.



Education

We are developing an agenda with churches to strengthen actions that promote child well-being and child protection.

Prayer request for Costa Rica

Pray for our efforts toward sustainability, that we may overcome the challenge of obtaining resources.

SEEKING RESOURCES FOR CHANNELS OF HOPE

A year ago we tested the Channels of Hope methodologies at awareness workshops held with several churches. As a result, we knew that these churches were very interested in child development and protection, and that we needed to provide greater technical support so that they could increase their capacities. Due to the lack of resources, we could not sustain this effort at the time. However, we are drawing up plans for new approaches to drive forward a child-focused agenda with churches.

Partnering with faith communities in THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Dominican communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in the Dominican Republic:

- Violence against children and adolescents
- Lack of civil society programmes to improve children's lives
- Lack of cultural understanding to raise children with tenderness

The Dominican Republic snapshot

Population: 10,767,000¹

Religious context: 94% Christian²

World Vision in the Dominican Republic³

Partner church networks: 97

Individual church partners: 255

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 14

Church leaders trained: 402 leaders in 255 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 17,171

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Kids' Clubs
Tender Parenting

Community impact in the Dominican Republic

To combat the Church's lack of knowledge regarding the Theology of Children and the Theology of Tender Parenting, we continue to work with the main Christian associations, promoting the subject of Tender Parenting through workshops, and holding Channels of Hope for Child Protection workshops.

We are also strengthening our relationship with the Global Network of Religions for Children and promoting the Learning to Live Together programme.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/domr/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Justice Advocacy and Promotion

Churches have been trained in the Channels of Hope for Child Protection, and local trained individuals act as child protectors in their communities and form a Child Protection Committee. The members of the Global Network of Religions for Children have selected the reduction of child punishment as one of their main focus areas. The last two network breakfast sessions have centred on the subject, and we have also gathered the signatures of main religious and spiritual leaders.



Spiritual Nurture

We have coordinated with the various local churches to guarantee the spiritual nurture of children and adolescents. We're raising awareness about child well-being and holding workshops to train Bible school teachers.

Prayer request for Bangladesh

Pray for a more equal distribution of wealth. In spite of the continuing economic growth and wealth in the country, many Dominicans remain poor. Pray for an end to the corruption, particularly in government administration as it limits the opportunities for children to enjoy life in all its fullness. Pray for a decrease in social violence, insecurity in the streets, families in crisis and the high level of femicides (female homicides). Pray for a clear call for social justice, especially in regard to the migrant workers.

LEARNING TO DISCIPLINE WITHOUT VIOLENCE

"My dad drank a lot. But he has changed since he heard of the Channels of Hope workshop and does not drink anymore. He is joining the church," says Ana, 12. Channels of Hope seeks to engage, train, and empower church leaders to sensitise their faith communities to the protection of children. Through Channels of Hope, World Vision guides families on children's rights and how to raise with tenderness, without mistreatment, and by encouraging dialogue in families.

Ana and her mother, Paula, live in Loma de Cabrera municipality, Dajabón Province (northwest region) and are active in the Valle de Bendición Missionary Church. Paula recounts that her husband overcame alcoholism thanks to the intervention of the Evangelical church he attended and the tools he learned at Channels of Hope. Ana says that things are better at home: "Mami and Papi have changed a lot since that workshop. If she sees a person mistreating a child, she tells the parents that they should correct him not by blows but by talking to him and lovingly," she says.



Paula calls for more church leaders, parents, and guardians to receive the message of Channels of Hope. "When I did not have this knowledge I acted differently, but when I acquired the knowledge, my life changed with my children. I learned to correct them without violence, to talk to them as if I were a friend. That workshop is based on raising children without violence, raising them in discipline and in the Lord's love," says Paula. Ana is Paula's youngest daughter. Paula has three other children ages 20, 17, and 14.

Last year, more than 300 Catholic and Evangelical leaders from different Dominican provinces attended Channels of Hope. Each year, more than 5,000 children are impacted by World Vision in Dajabón Province.

Partnering with faith communities in DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Congolese communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo snapshot

Population: 81,340,000¹

Religious context: 95% Christian, 2% Indigenous beliefs, 1% Muslim²

World Vision in Democratic Republic of the Congo³

Partner church networks: 1

Individual church partners: 340

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 9

Church leaders trained: 936 leaders in 326 churches

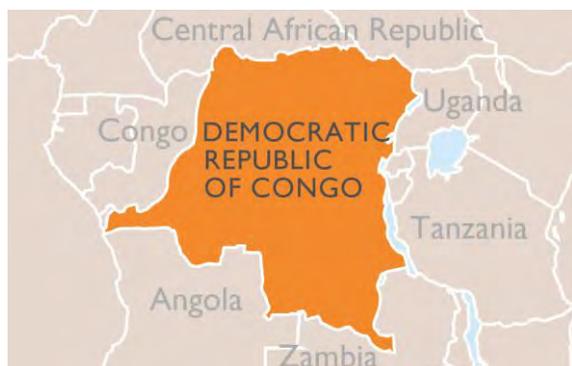
Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 95,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Democratic Republic of the Congo

World Vision partners with churches to provide training in development and spirituality to improve the well-being of all people – but particularly the children. We have seen partnerships with churches have a significant impact on child well-being by creating awareness on key issues like water and humanitarian access to conflict areas. We have also worked with the church to launch a birth registration campaign, and the church is now managing a sponsorship programme. We plan to expand our partnership by having church and religious leaders participate in proposal writing for key issues affecting children actors.



Challenges to child well-being in Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Political unrest and continuous conflict
- Lack of implementation and resources for child protection laws
- Negative cultural beliefs (such as early marriages)

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/cong/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education and Child Protection

The church and other faith organisations raise awareness of the importance of sending all children to school.

Churches also play a significant role in managing the community reading clubs, and they have campaigned around themes like ending early marriages and requiring birth certificates.

Church and religious leaders are also helping to improve humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas.



Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches have created awareness around immunization in collaboration with World Vision and the government. Other religious leaders have raised awareness about city sanitation and hand-washing.



Food Security and Economic Development

Churches and other religious leaders have promoted savings groups, empowering members to overcome poverty in the church and community.

Prayer request for Democratic Republic of the Congo

Pray for all the children of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly those affected by conflict.

Pray for strong and transparent collaboration among churches and other faith leaders around poverty issues, that the leaders will model “love in action” and respond holistically to communities’ needs.

WATER STATION BRINGS HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT

In celebration of the International Day of Water on March 22, 2017, World Vision and its partners organised an awareness-raising day for the population of Saza District. Two hundred people attended. The central theme was "Our drinking water supply, a source of income-generating activities and household survival." Various speakers encouraged the community to consume the water from the station that World Vision and its partners have installed in their neighbourhood for the good health of the community – rather than from an unmanaged source that could cause disease.



Kuka Pierre, community animator of the Gemena Health Zone, stressed that the water is a vital source for our health and for avoiding waterborne diseases. "Consuming drinking water allows the household to have good health and to flourish freely in all its activities. Travelling very long distances for a long time to draw water of poor quality is not our wish. We congratulate World Vision and its partners on this great achievement."

Mr. Jean Rémy Esengo, assistant to the University of Cepromad Gemena, spoke on how the drinking water is also a source of employment for fountain workers. This financial contribution means that the fountain workers can meet needs for education and care of their children. "The WASH program has created employment for the Saza neighbourhood community," he said.

Carine Malibayi, a 12-year-old child of the community, said, "Now we have drinking water in our neighbourhood. My brothers and I will no longer have the stomach aches, and my mother will no longer have to go a long distance to draw water."

ECUADOR

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Ecuadorian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Ecuador:

- Violence against children and lack of safe spaces at home
- Lack of prioritisation of children's programming in churches

Ecuador snapshot

Population: 16,625,000¹

Religious context: 97% Christian, 2% None²

World Vision in Ecuador³

Partner church networks: 19

Individual church partners: 376

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 19

Church leaders trained: 473 leaders in 300 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 24,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Channels of Hope

Kids' Clubs

Other locally developed programmes

Church faith leadership training programmes

Community impact in Ecuador

We promote advocacy by humbly involving ourselves in local associations in order to learn, provide company and offer our ideas. That is the best way of getting others involved in this context.

We plan to focus on continuous training programmes among churches, building their skills to work with children and offering spiritual nurture methods.

We will continue to design methodologies that meet churches' real needs, respecting their context. We are optimising the Channels of Hope for Children Protection programme among various churches, as it is well-received. We will also optimise the Renewing our Church through Tender Relationships methodology, which was designed by the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

We continue to strengthen our partnership with the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC).

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/zamb/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Theological Education for Faith Leaders

Churches have become involved in our Bible, Theology and Leadership Programme. Currently we are training 1,400 faith leaders at a national level. Other faith leaders are also carrying out children's activities at their churches through catechesis, Sunday school, Sunday mass and others.



Spiritual Nurture of Children

Churches allow us to train their Sunday school teachers in various methods, including new ways to teach the Word of God. Churches also use the materials during various spiritual nurture activities such as: camps, summer Bible schools, catechism and others.



Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Churches participate in a very dynamic way, as they are very interested in learning about child protection based on biblical and legal principles. Church leaders are trained, and then they drive other leaders to continue the work, which is why the programme has spread so much across the country.

Prayer request for Ecuador

Pray that each shared lesson has a positive impact on the lives of children, women, and faith leaders. Pray also that our internal processes do not dampen our passion and commitment to protect vulnerable people.

I DIDN'T KNOW THOSE PASSAGES ABOUT CHILDREN WERE THERE!: From theological gaps to partnership in child protection

At our "Bible, Theology, and Leadership" training programme, we work with community faith leaders, male and female pastors, catechism teachers, and Sunday school teachers. We seek to help churches shift the collective understanding from violence against children to their proper treatment and protection. This includes identifying the hermeneutic gap in the interpretation of holy texts, which has omitted care for children. We help the churches "return" to those biblical texts that had been cast aside, and which propose another model for relationships, parenting, and service in the community.

After completing the training programme, one local leader, Pastor Ramiro, said, "I didn't know those passages about children were there!" We were delighted to have met our objective, spreading the teachings and preaching the texts related to child protection, tender love for children, proper treatment of children, and children as promoters of change. In addition, we offered a study regarding the Theology of Children and then supplemented it with Servant Leadership skills.

Now, Pastor Ramiro and dozens of other trained leaders act as children's partners and protectors. He said, "It is possible to tenderly protect and raise children when the Bible is our guide and Jesus is our role model; when we act as leaders at the service of change."



EL SALVADOR

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in El Salvadoran communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in El Salvador:

- Social and economic exclusion, family disintegration, and gang violence
- A historically authoritarian and violent culture

El Salvador snapshot

Population: 6,378,000¹

Religious context: 44% Roman Catholic, 37% Protestant, 15% None²

World Vision in El Salvador³

Partner church networks: 19

Individual church partners: 1,165

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 14

Church leaders trained: 5,063 leaders in 1,165 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 73,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Building Peace
Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
HEA/Emergency
Kids' Clubs
School of Values
Tender Parenting

Community impact in El Salvador

Currently El Salvador has mostly Christian churches (Catholic and Evangelical). With them, World Vision seeks to create a dialogue and partnership to strengthen the interactions between these religious groups. We are contributing to the historical integral mission of the Church, working towards peace, inclusion, the end of gender inequality, the protection of children, and, above all, the strengthening of bonds of support and discipleship between faith leaders.

We partner with the Evangelical Alliance of El Salvador, the movement named “Juntos por la Niñez y la Adolescencia” (Together with Children and Youth), and with La Red Viva de El Salvador (The Living Network of El Salvador).

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/elsa/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Together we search for leaders to carry the message of hope and the voice of the most vulnerable to the ears of the whole congregation and the country, proposing changes in family relationships, children, and congregations. We do this work in the context of violence prevention and peacebuilding.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education and Child Protection

We primarily work toward violence prevention in urban contexts, nurturing children and youth's full development through educational models that include families, community actors, and churches. These models include: family circles of positive coexistence (for parents, and children through age 6), girls and boys for peacebuilding (7 - 12), youth for peacebuilding (13- 19) and the cultivation of fair, secure, and sustainable communities.



Church Engagement and Support

Churches participate in this programming, and children and families view churches as safe and reliable spaces where children and families can receive appropriate care amidst violent contexts. Churches also make volunteers available, and they offer support to share resources and activities. They support child protection by replicating the methodologies promoted by World Vision. Church members have demonstrated the sustainability of their work by earmarking an investment of \$6 for every \$1 that World Vision has given through its programming.

Prayer request for El Salvador

We thank the Lord for allowing us to see many good results in favour of vulnerable people. We thank God for the collaborators, who are always willing to serve with their gifts and skills in spite of ever-present violence, for the passion they give their work, and for their contribution to the well-being and protection of children. God, we ask that you protect us, and particularly protect those children who are forced to move to other places due to social violence.

LEARNING A NEW WAY TO LOVE

Jose Fidel Serrano wasn't always a loving father. "Dad was really bad-tempered before," says his son. "Every time my brother and I would fight, he would hit us and yell at us."

Fidel's wife agrees, "Sometimes he was really tough on them, and sometimes I had to get in the way to keep them safe. This training has really helped our family."

Fidel grew up in a male-dominated home. He knew he needed help and received training from World Vision's Channels of Hope for Gender Equality and Child Protection. He went to the training to help him be a better pastor at his church – but came out of the training a better pastor, husband, and father.

He says, "Adults want to educate the children, but who educates adults on how to treat children? . . . [This training is] a beautiful thing, because you realize you are raising your children the way you were raised 20, 25, 30 years ago – and you realize, wow, I'm abusing my children."

The training has also improved his relationship with his wife. He says, "Thank the Lord, I can testify that since I accepted the Lord, we have not argued to the point of refusing to talk all day. For this I'm proud, and can hold my head up high again. And so this has really helped me a lot." The whole family now lives with a new peace, and Fidel is excited that he has a new way to love his family.

ETHIOPIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Ethiopian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Ethiopia:

- Deeply-rooted poverty, including limited water supply, limited sanitation, low nutrition and other health issues, and high infant mortality rate
- Increasing drug and substance abuse among youth

Ethiopia snapshot

Population: 104,957,000¹

Religious context: 62.8% Christian, 33.9% Muslim, 2.6% Other²

World Vision in Ethiopia³

Partner faith-based networks: 16

Faith leaders: 306

Faith-based organisation partners: 7

Faith leaders trained: 466 leaders in faith-based organisations

Children who participated in moral character formation activities: > 11,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Community Action for Development

Empowered Worldview

Community impact in Ethiopia

World Vision engages churches and faith-based organisations through various WV campaigns such as Every Last One, For Every Child, and It Takes a World. Churches are engaged by mobilising leaders through awareness workshops and trainings; they then share the training with their local congregations. We work on child well-being with religious leaders at both national and local levels. World Vision plans to strengthen our partnership with the Trinitarian church

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² WVE strategy document 2016-20

³ From FY14-16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Churches and other faith leaders are engaged in mobilisation and training for good hygiene practices in their areas.



Health

Churches are engaged in mobilisation and training through health project models such as Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health.



Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan

Churches are engaged in mobilisation and training for health project models such as Channels of Hope for Gender, Positive Parenting, and Channels of Hope for Child Protection.

Prayer request for Ethiopia

Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance on how to empower local indigenous-specialised children ministries; we pray that churches may be well-equipped to champion and run child well-being ministry programmes with or without World Vision or other outside support.

ABDUCTION IS NO LONGER ACCEPTED, THANKS TO THE 'FOR EVERY CHILD' CAMPAIGN

Like many parts of Ethiopia, the town of Sagure in central-southeastern Ethiopia is characterized by many traditional practices – both useful and harmful ones.

For generations people had practiced the abduction of young girls as a means of forced marriage. Until recently, no one had objected to it or tried to limit it. Girls were habitually vulnerable to this practice, and the community accepted it as normal, whether they assisted with abductions or saw others being abducted. It was never an issue of concern.

One day Birri Suga, a 15-year-old on her way home from studying in grade four, was abducted by two men, one of whom intended to be her husband. Birri was dragged, strangled, and suffocated by her abductors. When she fainted, they carried her on their shoulders to the pre-arranged a place to hide her.

However, people who were watching the drama from close distance inquired what had happened to her. The abductors replied, "She has got epilepsy." But the inquirers were not satisfied by the reply, and they spread the rumor that the act could be abduction.

As the news reached many residents of the surrounding community, a mob, along with local government officers, stormed the hiding place. Birri was rescued by the community and government officers, and the abductors were arrested.

Birri has now been reinstated to her schooling, and the perpetrators were put in police custody to face justice. They will likely be an example to other potential perpetrators.

Never before has such a mob advanced to the rescue of an abducted girl; in fact, in the past, the mob would have instead been assisting in the abduction. Clearly the majority of the community has undergone a significant attitudinal change concerning the practice of abduction. How was this change possible?

World Vision's For Every Child campaign project was a prime factor in this shift, mobilising partners and resources towards holistic development. The project has worked in partnership with different government sector offices including the court, Women and Children's Office, police and schools. The project has carried out capacity building and awareness-raising activities on subjects including gender equality, child upbringing, healthy families, and fighting harmful traditional practices. All of these themes, in one way or another, have something to do with making the practice of abduction history.

Ato Weyeso Megerso, vice chairman of the FBF, said: "Previously, abduction was rampant in our community.... We used to believe that men have the right to abduct girls, while girls should accept as if it is natural. It is just recently that we came to know such practice is evil. We as FBF are fighting it because we have obtained a new understanding. And for all this achievement, FECCP/World Vision is the cause, and it has to be credited."

GEORGIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Georgian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Georgia:

- Socio-economic poverty (particularly due to unemployment)
- Parents' and churches' lack of skills/knowledge for child engagement
- Spiritual poverty as a post-Soviet community

Georgia snapshot

Population: 3,912,000¹

Religious context: 83.9% Orthodox Christian, 9.9% Muslim, 6.2% Other²

World Vision in Georgia³

Partner church networks: 4

Individual church partners: 22

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 5

Church leaders trained: 6 leaders in 22 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: >1,200

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Dare to Discover

Community impact in Georgia

Because local churches and traditional faiths are the most resilient and trusted entities, they are valuable partners. We work with them to engage communities, families, and children, prompting interfaith dialogues, peace-building, and reconciliation among local faith communities.

We engage church leaders in advocacy by empowering them to advocate for child well-being. We have helped the Georgian Orthodox Church (GOC) develop their social department agenda and have provided implementation support on the national and regional/diocese levels.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/geor/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

We engage GOC leaders on Channels of Hope for Child Protection implementation, and we work with the GOC social department on building and implementing their action plan.



Youth Empowerment

In partnership with churches, we have run the youth empowerment models like Dare to Discover, Celebrating Families, Peace Road, and SKYE. Other religious youth specialists are engaged in Dare to Discover to build trust with other denominations and for future collaboration.



Early Childhood Development

We use the Celebrating Families model with Early Childhood Development to target communities' parents, caregivers and teachers.

Prayer request for Georgia

Pray for the smooth implementation of the strategic initiatives of the Faith in Development programme working with Georgia's churches and communities. May leadership have the right vision for the children's future well-being; may it be a clear vision. May we continue to proactively implement the Faith in Development strategic objectives during the transition period.

LEARNING TO LISTEN

"I really like the feeling of unity. I can see that we are all different individuals but at the same time we are united. We do things together, we play together, we have discussions and respect each other's opinions," said Ketí Osepashvili, a participant at Peace Road camp in Georgia. World Vision Georgia organised the Peace Road Summer Camp to build friendships between young representatives of different regions, religions, and denominations. During the camp, the children, ages 12-14, participated in a variety of activities, including various sports. Each day also included two sessions to talk about peace between people from different backgrounds, learn how to avoid and solve problems, and discuss life priorities.

Orland Dishavadze, another participant, said, "We learned about important values such as respect, expressing feelings, love, and understanding. . . . There are groups of people who have conflicts for different reasons. But for me everything is different. I can listen to others, I can understand them. I can see that everyone has their own truth. I try to not overwhelm people with my opinion." Diana Nadoiani, another participant, said, "During the sessions we learned that we have to treat each other as equal. We have to respect each other and we should never be ashamed of expressing our thoughts and ideas. There are a lot of people from different religions, but no one judges them based on their religion and colour of their skin."

World Vision's Child Protection Officer trained the facilitators. The project aimed to create a friendly environment for children from different denominations, and the children met each other regularly over 7-8 months.

GHANA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Ghanaian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Ghana:

- Economic hardships
- Educated youth migrating to cities in search of jobs
- Lack of access to healthcare and other resources

Ghana snapshot

Population: 28,834,000¹

Religious context: 63% Christian, 21% Muslim, 15% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Ghana³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 299

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 11

Church leaders trained: 902 leaders in 300 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 20,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Citizen Voice and Action

Kids' Clubs

Youth Leadership Development and Resilience

Community impact in Ghana

We have seen the greatest impact when we reached out to almost 150 representatives from churches and faith networks at a national conference. Some of the partner churches set up savings and credit groups, involving 250 women from various denominations.

Church leaders have engaged in advocacy through their participation in Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Celebrating Families workshops and seminars. They then disseminate the information among church members.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/ghan/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

To facilitate hygiene and sanitation practices, churches use a biblical approach; other religious leaders also integrate their faiths with the sanitation practices.



Food Security and Resilience

Church leaders, community leaders, and other partners use farmer-managed natural regeneration to improve environmental protection and create sustainable livelihoods.



Health, Nutrition, and HIV/AIDS

Faith leaders, community members, and caregivers have been trained through Channels of Hope: Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health programs. We form and train CHATs (Community Hope Action Teams) for larger community outreach engagements.



Child Protection and the Spiritual Nurture of Children

Church and other religious leaders have engaged in sensitisation programmes for child protection in communities, churches, and mosques. Through project models such as Celebrating Families, Kids' Clubs, and Youth Leadership Development and Resilience programming, children, parents, and others have learned about children's spiritual formation and nurture.

Prayer request for Ghana

Prayer for enhanced church partnerships, and pray for grace as churches and other local partners seek funds to increase child well-being programmes in the communities.

CELEBRATING FAMILIES CHANGES COMMUNITIES

Wherever we have held Celebrating Families workshops in Ghana, lives have been touched. Participants at a workshop in 2015 included Christian, Muslim, and community leaders, and development partners from the Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, and the Department of Social Welfare.

A Muslim imam who is also a community leader said that the Celebrating Families training helped him broker peace in his community. "Two men fighting in my community were brought to me to settle the case between them. I sat the two people down, and with the knowledge I acquired in 'Seeds of Goodness' I was able to settle the case. At the end of the meeting, the one who had insulted the other apologised."

We have also seen the impact of the Celebrating Families training on child well-being. Matilda Quaake, staff of the Department of Social Welfare, said that the workshop opened her eyes and changed her approach to her work: "As a social worker, I deal with issues concerning individuals, families, and communities. I will therefore educate the individuals, families, and communities on how to identify and manage problems." The well-being of children across Ghana will improve as trainees become advocates, and as they examine and refine the long-held attitudes that are detrimental to children's nurture.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Guatemalan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Guatemala:

- Poverty and lack of education
- Violence against children (corporal/psychological, rape, and early marriages)

Guatemala snapshot¹

Population: 16,856,938

Religious context: 50% Catholic, 41% Evangelical, 6% none, 3% other

World Vision in Guatemala²

Partner church networks: 23

Individual church partners: 258

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 32

Church leaders trained: 192 leaders in 225 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 68,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Channels of Hope for Child Protection and for Gender

Fasting in Solidarity

Reduction of Sexual Abuse

Tender Parenting

Vacation Bible school

Community impact in Guatemala

In Guatemala, World Vision partnered with Compassion, International Christian Mission, Christian Broadcasting Network, and Buckner International to form the Christian Movement to End Violence Against Children. This movement has carried out joint activities, such as training more than 1,000 leaders from different churches on the subject of sexual violence. Together, these organisations prepared a toolkit to reduce sexual violence.

Churches are seen as natural and indispensable partners in the fight against child violence. We are making efforts to strengthen churches' capacity. We need everyone to eradicate child violence, through fasting in solidarity. Through fasting in solidarity, more than 6,000 people learned about ending violence against children.

¹ <http://www.operationworld.org/country/guat/owtext.html>

² From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health

During 2016, Iglesia Vida Real distributed 332 health kits among the families in their coverage area. Each kit consisted of two solar panels, a wood-saving stove, and a water filter. Another 300 kits will be distributed in 2017. Through the Casa de Dios church, more than 10,000 pairs of shoes were delivered to children in the coverage area.



Advocacy

World Vision, together with other civil society organizations, was instrumental in modifying the Civil Code and raising the minimum age for marriage to 18 years of age. In addition, an investigation was carried out to identify the main breaches of the child protection system. It has been used as a basis for making a proposal for an initiative to modify the Comprehensive Protection System for Children.

Through the Tender Parenting methodology, more than 3,000 fathers and mothers were trained according to the values of the kingdom of God.

Prayer request for Guatemala

Pray that we may find a strategy to establish relationships with other religions, which also ensures that existing relationships do not suffer in the process.

REDUCING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Along with the Christian Movement to End Violence Against Children, we prepared a kit to Reduce Sexual Violence Against Children. This kit includes four modules – Bible, Prevention, Company, and Incidence. It has reached over 1,000 Christian leaders, and its effects are even touching government sectors.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Haitian communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Haiti:

- Limited access to a quality education
- Lack of basic social services (housing, water and sanitation, primary health care, and nutrition)
- Low household income

Haiti snapshot

Population: 10,981,000¹

Religious context: 95% Christian, 2% Other²

World Vision in Haiti³

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Haiti

For financial or traditional reasons, people in rural areas do not always associate building a latrine with building their house. However, the church played a key positive role in the pursuit of child well-being by raising awareness among church members to build latrines in the communities of Akodet, Covihoy, Los Palis, Rio-Onde, and Cerca-La-Source.

Some churches also play important roles in advocacy activities by conveying key messages during regular gatherings. For example, as part of THINKfast, meetings with church leaders were held through different churches in three regions: Northern, Central Plateau, and Gonave. During religious services, youth and leaders conveyed messages about child protection and the rejection of violence against children.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/hait/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches are engaged in sanitation through a community approach called CATS (Community Approaches for Total Sanitation). This approach will enable us to eliminate open defecation throughout the target communities. We had the cooperation of 208 churches as part of this awareness-raising campaign. Churches are also involved in activities aimed at the improvement and availability of drinking water in communities, especially in water treatment training; 3,408 households were trained last year.

Many religious leaders are engaged in monitoring the sanitation programmes, especially the programme whose goal is to get people to build their own latrines in their communities. They have contributed their involvement and labour to these types of activities. They also raise awareness at meetings so that members can do the same.



Health

Churches are actively involved in the deworming campaign throughout the communities. They also agreed to give the team access to spaces to facilitate the distribution of vitamin A to children through age 7 in the community. We have been able to treat 16,024 children. Many religious leaders are engaged in identifying children in their churches and communities who need vitamin A.



Nutrition

Churches have used religious services and large ceremonies to share messages and to raise awareness among parents on how to provide a healthy, balanced diet to their children. Other religious leaders are involved in choosing sites for Nutrition Demonstration Foyer (NDF) activities.

Prayer request for Haiti

The country is politically unstable, which is having a negative impact on our work and child well-being. We pray that God will open people's hearts, especially the hearts of religious leaders, so that they can be more engaged in the church's social mission. Pray for the team, that God may help us to properly implement the new strategy for our children's well-being. May God give us more wisdom and the sense of service needed for better community support, and may the most vulnerable children have a modicum of well-being on this earth.

THE CHURCH BRINGS HOPE AND DEVELOPMENT TO COMMUNITIES

One day Fétière Léon, a man who lived in the small town of Lamecette in Savane Plate, started clearing a path. He labored, cutting away at branches and widening the road that was initially too narrow for anything but a motorbike to pass through. People in his little town were perplexed. Who was he making a path for? No one knew they were there, and certainly no one was coming. But the man relentlessly continued to clear a path wide enough for a car.

A few months later, in May 2011, members of Columbia Baptist Church (CBC) and some World Vision staff arrived in Savane Plate. During their tour, they drove up to Lamecette – and coincidentally met the man who had cleared the road. With tears in his eyes, the man said, “We didn’t think that anyone knew we were here, but you are here now, and we are grateful.”

Greg Loewer, Pastor for Missions & Evangelism at CBC, retells this story of his first visit to Lamecette. “Although we saw many other communities with needs and potential, we were most drawn to Savane Plate,” Pastor Greg notes. “The region has inspiring people with values of unity, hard work, education, family, and faith.”

Since then, the CBC has worked with the local churches through World Vision, and its Food Security project has introduced solutions to hunger problems faced by the children. The solutions included: goat distribution, latrine constructions, empowerment training, water filtration systems, and wells.

The successes in Savane Plate are due mostly to the local churches, whose leaders have mobilised and organised their communities to better work with CBC and World Vision. Their success testifies to the importance local churches have in promoting sustainability and responsibility within their societies, and thus also creating nurturing environments in which children may grow.

Moreover, through prayer, kindness and mutual respect, CBC members have developed a bond with the people of Savane Plate. Thus far, more than 100 CBC members have visited Savane Plate and have been inspired by the community. The children love when CBC conducts spiritual nurture activities, including Bible training and Bible reading. “The partnership between Savane Plate and Columbia is, in a sense, one of equals. We both give commitment: Columbia with prayer, finances, and encouragement; Savane Plate with unity, diligent labor, and accountability,” says Pastor Greg.

The church is pivotal in World Vision’s goal to help the most vulnerable, especially children. In Haiti, especially in struggling areas, faith leaders carry great influence and can foster deep relationships with communities. “We continue to pray to God for Columbia and World Vision for all they have done in helping [the community of Savane Plate] grow,” states Pastor Joseph Jonas. A father of eight, Pastor Jonas donated a piece of his land to house the sugar mill machinery that was donated by CBC. Pastor Jonas, along with other community members of Savane Plate, have noted that the various CBC and World Vision projects have allowed them to give their children better health, nutrition, and education. For example, the sugar mill donation has helped community members generate enough cash for them to send the children to school.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the Food Security project is the construction of a lake in Savane Plate. Andre, a local pastor in Savane Plate, donated 2.4 hectares of his land for the lake. The Lake serves diverse functions, including: farm irrigation, washing, fishing, recreational use, drinking (for animals), and even baptism. Currently there is a fishing group, consisting of a couple of youths from the area, trying to better tap into the lake’s potential for economic development. The children also like to watch. “We can’t have that big lake and not use it. So we are trying to get the most of out of it,” observes Onel Louis, the president of the group.

The fishing group is but one example of local members working hard to ensure long-term sustainability within their region. World Vision strives to ensure community leaders take centre stage in their own development. “World Vision is a trustworthy partner; [they] know the best practices and conduct community development in the most effective manner,” Pastor Greg affirms. CBC continues to support Savane Plate. They plan to eventually invest in other communities with similar projects in the future, but they will always have a special relationship with the people of Savane Plate. “Columbia feels especially blessed to receive all that Savane Plate has given to us: their example of fervent prayer, joyful worship, [public] cooperation, love of family, hope for the future, [and] faith in God,” confesses Pastor Greg.

This is the role the church is meant to play: to bring hope, healing, and love to people around the world.

HONDURAS

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Honduran communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Honduras:

- Lack of community-based public policies addressing child protection
- “Politicisation” of child protection organisations
- Lack of responsible parenting
- Need for greater participation of churches in child protection at the social and public levels

Honduras snapshot

Population: 9,265,000¹

Religious context: 95% Catholic, 1% Protestant, 1% None²

World Vision in Honduras³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 337

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 7

Church leaders trained: 642 leaders in 280 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 200,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Tender Parenting

Community impact in Honduras

We plan to create cross-denominational support committees that can help overcome denominational barriers, in hopes that this effort will have a “snowball” effect for greater initiatives. We also hope to create concrete partnership proposals with churches, starting with their highest authorities.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/hond/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Life Skills and Youth Employability

Through church-based youth groups, youth training projects have supported positive values and entrepreneurship initiatives. In some cases, these groups have begun construction projects on church grounds. Community leaders become promoters so that the young people can participate in these initiatives, and the young people are responsible for continuing the workshops and courses.



Prevention of Violence Against Children

Violence against children is one of the most prevalent problems facing communities in Honduras. The church has helped to raise awareness of the problem through campaigns, training sessions, and mobilization activities that promote a culture of interdenominational collaboration. The church has also helped to shape community leaders as promoters of a culture of peace.



Adaptation to Climate Change

Churches and religious leaders are helping to strengthen awareness around “creation care,” promoting responsibility with natural resources, and helping to take preventative and mitigating actions against environmental damage and deterioration.

Prayer request for Honduras

We pray that God will give church authorities greater sensitivity towards the needs of the unprotected, and will inspire them to promote willingness to serve and have solidarity within their communities. May God bring out prophets from among his people who can announce and report injustice.

HAND IN HAND, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

In eastern-central Honduras, a particular urban area has been classified as highly dangerous. Groups of young people, known for committing violent acts, do not allow any strangers to enter the community. World Vision, however, through collaboration with the church, was able to begin inter-denominational committees of protection. Formed by leaders of Catholic and Protestant churches, the committees have become the channels through which interventions are developed. These committees have become the watchdogs to support both children and adult community members.

INDIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Indian communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in India:

- Beliefs and practices that are damaging to children's health, education, and protection
- Inadequate policy implementation at all levels related to children's health, education, and protection
- Lack of holistic understanding of child development and well-being

India snapshot

Population: 1,339,180,000¹

Religious context: 79% Hindu, 12% Muslim, 2% Christian, 1% Sikh²

World Vision in India³

Partner church networks: 13

Individual church partners: 4,060

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 4

Church leaders trained: 9,941 leaders in 222 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 285,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope (HIV and AIDS; Child Protection)

Christian Vision for Action (Christian Leaders' Conferences)

Empowered Worldview

Community impact in India

We engage church leaders in advocacy through church representation and participation in national and state level coalitions and networks on child rights and participation.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/indi/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Churches have developed, revisited and/or revised their child protection policies. They are also participating in various coalitions/movements/networks (e.g. 4-14 Movement; City Transformation Networks, etc.).



Disability Inclusion

Churches are engaging in discussion on Disability Theology and are participating in coalitions (India Disability Ecumenical Accompaniment, DISHA, Engage Disability). Other faith leaders also engage in interfaith discussions on disability inclusion. The National Council of Churches in India is revisiting and reforming theology on disability and is moving toward an inclusive community for children and other persons with disabilities.



Health and Nutrition

Churches and other faith leaders participate in community level programmes and joint awareness events relating to health and nutrition. Various interfaith meetings have helped partners to come together to share their own faith perspectives on health and nutrition.

Prayer request for India

Please pray that efforts to address the high levels of poverty in India will yield the desired results. The widening disparity means that 69 per cent of the population lives on less than US\$2 per day. Rapid urbanisation has accentuated urban poverty.

Please pray for the overall health and nutrition situation of children in India to improve. Currently, only 44 per cent of children are fully immunised against preventable diseases and 43 per cent of young children are underweight. Among infants, 50 out of 1,000 do not reach their first birthday.

Pray that issues such as child labour, child marriage and child abuse will decrease and that all children will be able to enjoy their childhood in India.

Pray against gender-selective abortion and infanticide in India. The number of girls per 1,000 boys below age 66 has seen a declining trend in the past decades.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING RIPPLES OUTWARD

Leaders representing 22 dioceses of the Church of South India were sensitised on child protection using the Channels of Hope curriculum. In response, the leaders formed a child protection policy that is influencing their life and liturgy. Similarly, leaders from the Gosner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ranchi were also sensitised on child protection using the Channels of Hope curriculum. The Church Executive Board has taken this issue seriously, creating a ripple effect across all six dioceses in Jharkhand State.

INDONESIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Indonesian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Indonesia:

- Limited access to quality education
- Unmet civil rights, such as lack of birth certificates for some children
- Health concerns: malnutrition and a high infant mortality rate

Indonesia snapshot

Population: 263,991,000¹

Religious context: 80% Muslim, 16% Christian, 1% Hindu²

World Vision in Indonesia³

Partner church networks: 11

Individual church partners: nearly 500

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 39

Church leaders trained: 611 leaders in 209 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 81,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Child Protection and for HIV or AIDS

Empowered Worldview (Building Inclusive Paradigm)

Kids' Clubs through Child Groups, Youth Forum, and Building Inclusive Youth Leadership

Community impact in Indonesia

In Indonesia, challenges such as limited access to quality education and unmet civil rights (children without birth certificates) can make children vulnerable to increased violence and exploitation (including trafficking and child labour). Poor health care, including malnutrition and a high infant mortality rate, also limits children's well-being.

We plan to expand our networking with interfaith institutions on issues related to child well-being; we're currently using Channels of Hope for Child Protection and are developing a module on youth leadership.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/indo/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Churches and faith-based organisations, including traditional leaders, are all involved in creating a friendly environment for children.



Education and Life Skills

Churches and faith-based organisations, including traditional leaders, are helping to create the “contextual character education” curriculum.



Nutrition and Health

Churches and faith-based organisations, including traditional leaders, get involved in health campaigns, and they encourage their congregations or community to support programs that support children’s health.



Inclusive Economic Development

Churches and faith-based organisations, including traditional leaders, are also involved in reducing expenses and allocating funds for children’s benefit.

Prayer request for Indonesia

As Indonesia is a country of many faiths and denominations, activities involving churches and faith-based organisations could make a significant impact; pray that we can all work together to improve children’s welfare.

HARMONY EDUCATION FOR LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

Initiated by World Vision, the Harmony Education module is a partnership among World Vision, the Church and Muslim institutions in Central Sulawesi province. As a Christian humanitarian organisation, we work to bring holistic improvements to children’s lives, to families and to society. We serve all people without discriminating by religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Harmony Education is part of our spiritual nurture of children programming.

Harmony Education considers the roles and responsibilities of parents, society, and government as the socio-ecological environment of children’s lives. It is oriented toward harmony with Self, with Fellows, and with Nature, and thus helps to build children's awareness of themselves, others, and the environment. It begins with the creation of safety and peace through structured education, but it can also be a model of contextual character education.

Harmony Education is not a short process, but through this module many children have experienced less violence and better relationships between religions.

Partnering with faith communities in JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK

World Vision

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Palestinian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Jerusalem and the West Bank:

- In-country conflict resulting in among the highest rate of children exposed to violence worldwide, and multiple generations in refugee camps
- Fragmented, isolated, and minority Christian community

Jerusalem and the West Bank snapshot

Population: 4,921,000¹

Religious context: 88% Muslim, 12% Christian²

World Vision in Jerusalem and the West Bank³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 23

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 13

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 1,500

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Channels of Hope

Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic

Empowerment (SKYE) Clubs

Community impact in Jerusalem and the West Bank

In this fragile context, World Vision tries to positively engage both the traditional churches (including the many varieties of Catholic and Orthodox communities) as well as the smaller groups such as Anglican, Evangelical, Baptist and Messianic. Our work in networking and visiting regularly with these communities is bearing fruit, as they feel more heard by and connected to World Vision.

In Gaza the situation is very restricted and has an enormous impact on the Christian population. We are currently working with the Palestinian Bible Society in Gaza through their connections.

We continue to advocate for child well-being and reach out to others, including speaking to the World Council of Churches about the work.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/pale/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Spiritual Nurture of Children

Along with the Bethlehem Bible College, we are organising a course for teacher training for all churches. Also in close contact with the churches, we are training parents on spiritual nurture.



Youth

Youth in this region are pessimistic about the future and face significant unemployment (especially due to discrimination against Christians). We are working to organise a congress to talk about the future of Palestinian youth, holding roundtable discussions and creating a shared action plan. We are approaching this holistically, including church partners, other organisations, youth partners, and Bethlehem Bible College. We are also working with churches to hold Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic Empowerment (SKYE) Clubs.

Prayer request for Jerusalem and the West Bank

Pray that we may increase our capacity, both financial and human resources, to address the overwhelming needs. Pray also for unity in the Church, that mistrust may diminish. Pray that the root cause of so many problems – the conflict – may cease.

CAMPS OFFER A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS

Working with the local church remains to be extremely challenging, but on a local grassroots level amazing things have been accomplished. A special example is the cooperation between a Catholic priest Father David Neuhaus and the Hebrew speaking congregation in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. He is working among migrant families, especially caring for the children who would otherwise be without any professional care during the day time when their parents (mostly single moms) work. He is giving children a future perspective and a healthy start of their life. The summer camps organised for the older children were a life-changing experience. Learning religious songs, enjoying being in nature and playing games is the highlight of the year. World Vision JWG has worked in cooperation this year by supporting a new daycare center for the toddlers and afterschool care. We aim to help to facilitate a shelter for the children who do not have a safe place to eat and sleep at night.

KENYA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Kenyan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Kenya:

- Early marriages and female genital mutilation
- Inadequate infrastructure for health and education
- Limited training of child ministry workers

Kenya snapshot

Population: 49,700,000¹

Religious context: 83% Christian, 11.2% Muslim, 1.7% Other²

World Vision in Kenya³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 18

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 39

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 632,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Empowered Worldview
Kids' Clubs
Peace Building

Community impact in Kenya

Faith communities in Kenya have critical roles to play in child protection, as they comprise 97% of the population. They have significant potential both for advocacy and mobilisation.

In Kenya, World Vision has seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact for child well-being when we use existing church networks and when our engagement enhances existing church resources.

To improve child well-being in Kenya, we must increase faith communities' awareness and prioritisation of child well-being and engage in intentional education.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/kenya/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Resilience and Livelihoods

Church and other religious leaders are trained in Empowered Worldview to promote improved and resilient livelihoods. We also train pastors in theology and development.



Education and Child Protection

Through training in Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope for Child Protection and for Gender, and Empowered Worldview training, we increase church and other religious leaders' awareness and prioritisation of child well-being.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Through training in Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and for HIV, and Empowered Worldview, church and other religious leaders can revitalise children's lives, create healthy communities, and banish preventable diseases.

Prayer request for Kenya

Pray for boldness for World Vision as we engage with faith leaders, as faith leaders' participation and action are vital.

FROM PRODIGAL SON TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZER: Mr. Dominic

God has transformed me! Once I was the village drunkard, but now I want to help deliver my village mates from food insecurity. In 2015, I saw my pastor dig a dam to store rainwater for domestic use and small-scale farming. I got excited and decided to try some of the techniques he had learned. When the rains came, my earth dams filled with water and I was able to irrigate. I grew and sold vegetables, which paid for my daughter's college fees, and I started poultry farming for my wife.

Now I'm encouraging my neighbours and relatives to dig the dams in their farms. The rainfall patterns are no longer reliable, and rainwater harvesting is the only way the community can sustain food production.

I feel like the prodigal son of the Bible. God gave me a second chance in life, and now I want all who come into contact with me to get transformed so that they can be empowered to depend on themselves. My vision is for every single farm in my village, Kalawa, to have its own dam so that the food shortage problem and poverty in our community will come to an end.

Partnering with faith communities in KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Iraqi communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Kurdistan Region of Iraq:

- Uncertainty due to economic upheaval, moving populations, and military actions

Kurdistan Region of Iraq snapshot

Population: 38,275,000 (Iraq) ¹

Religious context: 96% Muslim, 3% other, 1% Christian (Iraq) ²

World Vision in Kurdistan Region of Iraq³

Partner church networks: 5

Individual church partners: 13

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 1

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 70

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Youth Empowerment (context-specific model)

Community impact in Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Through our Youth Empowerment and Celebrating Families sessions, we are trying to help families envision their futures and dare to dream of a life after ISIL and war. Church leaders have really begun to own the Celebrating Families trainings, and some have offered to conduct such trainings in areas that World Vision cannot reach due to security and legal restrictions. The church leaders who have been trained report making family wellness and wholeness a priority in their sermons and in pastoral care.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/iraq/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Child Protection has recently become part of our Faith in Development sector so that we can devote more time to the spiritual nurture of children. Currently the Syrian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Chaldean Catholic and Assyrian Church of the East congregations are included in these programmes. We look forward to these relationships growing and the programmes expanding when the Christians in these congregations can return to their land and the post-ISIL rebuilding begins.



Food Security and Livelihoods

Local Muslim and Christian communities of faith have both benefitted from our food programming. The church and mosque leaders are instrumental in helping to give related feedback. We held livelihoods training in partnership with the Mar Elia Church, equipping women to become seamstresses.

Prayer request for Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Pray that the churches in this region would be united in passion and purpose, to be the light and to care for the most vulnerable in their communities.

SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NOURISHMENT FOR INTERNALLY-DISPLACED PERSONS

Omi and Abouna and their children had fled their home back in June 2014 when rumours that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant began to advance. They stayed in Ainkawa only three days, returning home as soon as word came that all was well.

When they fled again last August, they assumed it would be like the last time. Omi left with her three daughters and two sons. They didn't pack much. They even left Abouna and their oldest son at home, because Abouna was scheduled for a medical procedure the next day. Omi and the other five children went to Ainkawa to stay at the church until the "all-clear" came. But the "all-clear" didn't come.

They stayed on the grounds of Mar Mahony Church in Quroquosh with others from their community. No one had word about Abouna or the oldest son. After a few weeks, Omi and her five children were then moved into a hotel. Three months later, the family moved to a camp for internally-displaced persons in Erbil. Then, in December, ISIL freed many Christians who had been living in their occupied territory. When the released families came to Ainkawa, still no one had news of Abouna and his oldest son.

Two of Omi and Abouna's daughters dropped out of school while they were in Qouroqush. The family made their living raising sheep, so the girls decided they didn't need to go to school – they wanted to help their mother at home instead. The youngest daughter was a freshman in high school when the family left, and she wasn't able to go to school while the family was living away. Now because of Iraqi law, she cannot re-enroll in classes; she has been out for more than three years. The older of the two youngest sons is a daily labourer; he receives income sporadically for work he completes, sometimes only working one day per month and receiving his salary three months later. The youngest son goes to school.

They could be receiving Abouna's retirement fund from the Iraqi government; however, in order to receive the pay, Abouna needs to be present to give fingerprint verification. But Abouna isn't present. And so the family only has only one source of income.

That one source of income is almost enough to cover the family's two bills. They pay for the generator for their house and for the bus pass for the youngest son to attend school. Both total about \$65.

Omi and her five children are recipients of World Vision KRI and the World Food Programs voucher programme. The voucher allows Omi to go to the store and exchange the voucher for flour, rice, chicken, and necessary kitchen supplies.

"We are so thankful for World Vision. Even when others have left, you are still with us," Omi said.

The family is very private, and Omi is careful that her children's ages and names remain unknown. However, Omi allowed World Vision into her home because she knows that we partner with her priest. When World Vision staff explained about the Youth Empowerment and Celebrating Families projects, which World Vision is implementing with the local congregations, Omi became more relaxed and said she would reach out to her priest for additional information. World Vision is able to work with the community and respond to the family's needs from both faith and food security angles.

When asked what the family wished and hoped for, Omi said, "I just want to know where my husband and son are. That is all." She is confident that they are still alive, as her husband was a prisoner of war in Iran for nine years during the Iran-Iraq war before they were married.

However, when her younger daughters were asked, they answered, "We want peace." Another daughter said she wanted to become a volunteer with Celebrating Families.

Because the food security programme is so visible in these communities, World Vision is able to partner physical nourishment with spiritual nourishment through the churches. In Erbil alone, World Vision's Food Security programme serves 23,000 families, or 135,000 individuals. We also distribute in-kind food to 45,000 families in Duhok, and we are covering 14,855 Syrian refugee families or 65,000 individuals in nine camps.

LAOS

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Lao communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Laos:

- Lack of basic infrastructure
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Cultural barriers and a restrictive context/government

Laos snapshot

Population: 6,858,000¹

Religious context: 67% Buddhist, 31% Animist, 1% Christian, 1% Muslim and Bahai²

World Vision in Laos³

Partner church networks: 4

Individual church partners: 15

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 11

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 3,300

World Vision Faith programme models used:
Channels of Hope for HIV and AIDS

Community impact in Laos

Based on the cultural and political contexts in Laos, we engage government partners in advocacy for child well-being through dialogues, capacity building and lobbying. Hard advocacy is not tolerated or accepted by the Lao government.

World Vision's work with churches in this region is relatively new. We plan to increase our interfaith approach and to intentionally engage monks and temples in discussions about and planning for child well-being. We have invited church leaders to participate in Channels of Hope for HIV/AIDS.

We have also invited church leaders and faith actors to discuss specific topics of interest (including trafficking and HIV/AIDS), and we have celebrated national and international events in support of advocacy campaigns – such as International Children's Day (ending violence against children) and International Women's Day (ending violence against women).

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/laos/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Participation in youth activities and sports groups, as well as peace-building and community development to lead interfaith partnerships.

Prayer request for Laos

Pray that we may find God's favour and guidance in engaging with churches in Laos. Specifically, we pray for the success of the community pledge fund-raising model.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Lebanese communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Lebanon:

- Highest per capita number of refugee children in the world
- A chronically unstable security environment with decades of conflict and tension
- Insufficient public services and policies that discriminate against refugee children

Lebanon snapshot

Population: 6,082,000¹

Religious context: 59% Muslim, 31% Christian, 7% Druze²

World Vision in Lebanon³

Partner church networks: 20

Individual church partners: 20

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 5

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 1,800

World Vision Faith programme models used:

The Feast

Church Refugee Engagement Fund (CREF)

Community impact in Lebanon

One complicating factor in Lebanon's context – yet also an opportunity for influencing change – is the intimate link between religious identities and political power; religious leaders are also important political actors.

World Vision is building partnerships from across different Christian denominations. So far, 13 churches have signed partnership agreements, and at least eight more are anticipated.

We have adopted Channels of Hope for Child Protection as one of our main project models, and we will implement it in partnership with Islamic Relief.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/leba/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

We have approached churches and faith-based organisations as partners in child protection; at present three projects are targeting six churches.

We will also be implementing Channels of Hope for Child Protection in partnership with Islamic Relief Lebanon, and we intentionally plan to engage Muslim religious leaders. A Channels of Hope for Child Protection workshop for Christian and Muslim leaders was planned for April 2017.



Education

We have approached churches and faith-based organisations to achieve education-related outcomes both nationally and locally. Currently, two projects are targeting five churches. We have also engaged with various faith-based schools.



Basic Assistance/Livelihood

We have been engaging with eight churches in direct basic assistance through four different projects at present.

Prayer request for Lebanon

Pray that God will watch over the refugees in Lebanon: the broken families following multiple wars, the homeless people, and the children and youth who have lost their dreams of a home and a future.

God intimately knows every refugee family and their children, and no one is a stranger to him. Pray that God will plant in the hearts of Lebanese people the spirit of kindness, love, and care for their refugee sisters and brothers.

We are thankful for seeing refugee children enrolled in schools, for the smiles on their faces, for the fruits of transformation in the lives of thousands of refugee people, and for all those Lebanese communities who are supporting refugees, despite the many challenges.

THE CHURCH AS A SAFE PLACE IN DANGEROUS TIMES

When Mary Bittar awoke to the sound of suicide bombs exploding throughout her village, her first thought was, “God help the mothers of those injured.” She didn’t know that she was one of them. Her son, 44-year-old Boulos al-Amar, was the local ambulance driver. He had been transporting victims from the first and second attacks to the medical centre when a third attacker targeted his vehicle. The attackers killed five and wounded 30. Mary says her heart is broken. She wants her son to be remembered as a “hero and a martyr. He went to help others and died in the process.”

Thanks to donations from World Vision U.S., each family affected in the blasts was given \$500 – a total donation of \$15,000. “I used the money for food and milk for the children, to make us forget and feel something,” says Farha Nasrallah, Boulos’ widow and mother of three.

Father Elian Nasrallah, the priest at the village’s St. Elias Melkite Greek Catholic church, believes the militants want to scare people to leave Qaa so that they can move through the village before taking more of the tiny

country of Lebanon. With Christian communities across the region under threat and facing displacement, Nasrallah is determined to ensure his congregation feels safe and secure here.

“People are holding on to Qaa and their lands but there is still fear at the same time,” he says. “It was a race against time to ensure everyone had the support they needed and to make sure people felt resilient and didn’t want to leave,” Nasrallah says. He said that it was important to support residents in tangible, financial ways, but also in moral and religious ways.

Since the attack, Nasrallah has held a series of outdoor ceremonies at a nearby chapel on a rocky outcrop, in the direction from whence the militants likely came. He says the ceremonies have been a powerful way of displaying the church’s strength in Qaa.

Mary, mourning her son Boulos, is adamant that she will stay in Qaa. “By God’s will, we will stay here, with the saints protecting us. They tried to get us to leave, but we won’t. People were very scared, they felt threatened. But we won’t leave.”

LESOTHO

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Bathoso communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Lesotho:

- Harmful cultural and religious traditions
- Poverty

Lesotho snapshot

Population: 2,233,000¹

Religious context: 90% Christian, 10% Other²

World Vision in Lesotho³

Partner church networks: 9

Individual church partners: 106

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 9

Church leaders trained: 3,210 leaders in 101 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 38,600

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Empowered Worldview
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Lesotho

At the national level, faith leaders engage in advocacy and influence policies, and locally they influence the community through trainings.

We plan to include churches in our Resilience and Livelihoods programmes. More broadly, we plan to map the available faith actors and meet to share about our activities and to hear what they are doing in the community.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/leso/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Livelihoods

Churches train church and community members on Empowered Worldview, promoting the proper use of land for income and food security, and pointing out myths that are preventing success.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Using the Jesus, Source of Living Water sermon outlines, churches are teaching communities about hygiene and the biblical principles of water and sanitation.



Health

World Vision trained church leaders in various Channels of Hope models, and the leaders now teach their congregations about HIV and Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health. This decreases child mortality and maternal mortality and also improves the health of children and mothers.



Community Engagement and Sponsorship Programme

Sunday and Sabbath school teachers who were trained by Celebrating Families are now managing structures and proper curriculum to enhance children's spiritual nurture.

Prayer request for Lesotho

Pray that Christian commitments might acquire more financial resources, and that faith leaders will positively influence the community's mindset for economic growth.

CHURCHES UNITE TO FEED VULNERABLE CHILDREN

"Empowered Worldview is one of the best trainings I have ever attended. It opened my eyes as to how I, as a faith leader, could influence my fellow pastors to realise the importance of transforming their minds, hearts, and pockets," said Pastor Bonga Mzini.

"I was trained by World Vision on Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, Channels of Hope for Gender, and Empowered Worldview as a facilitator. I also attended a number of workshops on Channels of Hope, Child Protection, Celebrating Families, and so on. This is where I realized that I have a calling to unite all the pastors from my area, so that they can be enlightened like me."

"We are currently running a feeding programme," Mzini said. "The programme used to feed 45 children registered with World Vision Lesotho. The number of children has increased with time, and they receive food from the church."

Eleven churches in the area work together to feed children. Mzini says these churches were first brought together for training in 2011. After that training, they felt the need to put their long-time differences as the Body of Christ aside and work toward a common goal. World Vision saw their initiative and provided 200 laying chickens to feed the vulnerable children in their area. They now anticipate 500 more chickens. The faith leaders are glad to take responsibility for the children.

Partnering with faith communities in

MALAWI

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Malawian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Malawi:

- Child marriages
- Child labour
- Illiteracy

Malawi snapshot

Population: 18,622,000¹

Religious context: 79% Christian, 13% Muslim, 6% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Malawi³

Partner church networks: 4

Individual church partners: 635

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 4

Church leaders trained: 1,741 leaders in 635 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 206,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Gender, HIV and AIDS, Child Protection, and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Citizen Voice and Action

Empowered Worldview

Kids' Clubs

Youth Ready in Action for Adolescents

Community impact in Malawi

World Vision plans to train church leaders in World Vision development approaches and meet with other religious networks.

We've seen particular success using Empowered Biblical Worldview and Farm Managed Natural Resources (FMNR). Faith leaders are very concerned with their congregations' physical needs, but they don't always have the tools to help them. FMNR demonstrates how it is within the church's biblical mandate to care for the land and to help congregations become more productive. FMNR also gives churches a suite of simple and accessible tools, which they can use immediately.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/mala/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

World Vision has also seen success in responses to HIV and AIDS using Channels of Hope, which uses biblical teachings to motivate faith leaders and their communities. We have effectively mobilised the faith community in HIV prevention and care, and they now support interventions and are tackling stigma and discrimination. In many instances, faith leaders now live by example, sharing their HIV status openly and motivating congregations to get involved in HIV prevention, care and support programmes.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches are training youth in life skills using the Youth Ready Curriculum, and churches and other faith actors are promoting girls' education.



Food Security

Churches promote good agricultural practices and care of the environment, and they train church members to do the same.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches are using the Jesus, Source of Living Water Bible study guide in congregations and schools both for spiritual nurture and promoting good hygiene practices among congregants and children. Other religious leaders advocate the drinking of safe water and promote other hygiene practices in their congregations and schools.

Prayer request for Malawi

Pray that our team would be made up of people of faith who have a passion for service, and that the Lord would use our open hearts for a mighty work for his glory.

PASTOR'S INTERVENTION TEACHES MOTHER BETTER WAYS TO PARENT

One evening as Pastor T. Mbazi was having dinner, he saw Taputa, a 14-year-old girl, being quickly herded home by her angry mother. It was clear that she intended to beat her when they arrived home. Pastor Mbazi and his wife stopped eating dinner and followed them instead. Upon arriving at home, Taputa's mother entered the house and locked it; but before she could begin what was her usual beating, the pastor's wife knocked. The mother opened the door and allowed the pastor and wife to come in.

They talked with the angry mother, about why beating children is child abuse and has many negative consequences – physical, psychological, and spiritual consequences. The mother listened and decided not to beat her daughter.

Since then, the pastor's wife has had a number of interactions with the mother related to child protection, drawing relevant scripture from the Bible.





This mother has four daughters, and she had been beating them as part of raising them. The mother said, "The pastor helped me to understand more about child abuse and the problems that come with beating children. I will never beat children again."

Taputa said, "My mother has changed a lot after talking to the pastor and his wife. She supports us in our education and homework, and now she knows that beating children disturbs them in school."

Her mother said, "I would encourage all parents to refrain from beating children, as it's child abuse and has many long-lasting consequences."

MALI

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Malian communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Mali:

- Low household income
- Low education level
- Negative cultural practices (FGM, child marriages)
- Security crises and food emergencies in the northern and central regions of the country have led to the displacement of populations, children being taken out of school and precarious living conditions

Mali snapshot

Population: 18,542,000¹

Religious context: 92.4% Muslim, 3.2% Christian, 2.6% None, 1.6% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Mali³

Partner church networks: 6

Individual church partners: 629

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 6

Church leaders trained: 434 leaders in 281 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 20,700

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Mali

We've seen partnerships with churches make a surprising impact for child well-being in Koodougou, where we brought together five Christian denominations that had no experience working together. We organised three meetings for training this year, and all have gone well.

When they had training on community resilience, one leader concluded, "The church should be at the forefront and build capacity to better respond to shocks." After the training on malnutrition, the group determined that the solution to malnutrition is more about a community response than a medical one. They assured one another that they could significantly reduce malnutrition in their communities.

"I recommend that each of us shares these teachings in his church, applies them in daily life, and makes a follow-up report to our leaders," said another leader.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/mali/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

That very evening after the leaders returned to their communities, church members met to learn and take action. Forty-eight leaders from 15 communities had participated in that training on resilience and malnutrition. On their return, 156 men, 129 women, and 288 children from 12 communities benefitted.

For advocacy, locally and nationally, church leaders and faith actors are trained to raise awareness among congregation members for sustainable development, maternal and infant health, child protection, and interfaith relations. They are also held accountable in their congregations for the implementation of specific activities relating to faith and development. These activities include: Channels of Hope, preaching about maternal and infant health, and prayer for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health and Nutrition

Faith leaders raise awareness to prevent certain diseases in the congregations, such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola. They also write arguments and sermons on health and nutrition for their congregations and provide training on issues related to maternal and infant mortality.



Education

Faith leaders raise awareness about children's education and the need for a birth certificate for each child. They keep communities accountable for proper school management and support children's groups (in the school government).



Child Protection

Pastors, priests, and imams are trained as facilitators to implement Channels of Hope for Child Protection, Celebrating Families, and Kids' Clubs. They share sermons on child protection with their congregations, and they are trained in issues relating to child protection (such as FGM and child marriage).



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Faith leaders raise awareness about health through participation in Channels of Hope for Malaria and "Child Health Now." They also raise awareness about hygiene and hand washing, and they promote the use of household latrines. They mobilise congregations to adopt hygiene practices and give sermons on WASH.

Prayer request for Mali

Pray that the church and other faith actors will engage and participate more fully in the objectives of child well-being. Pray also for church unity.

FROM A HOSTILE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, TO ONE OF NUTURE

Seba Traore and Miriama Diarra were married to the same man in Kolokani, Mali, and thus both were widowed in 2012 when the mutual husband died. The relationship between these women was tense both before and after the death of their husband; not a day went by without quarrels between the two. Then after such quarrels, the mothers turned their anger on their children. The children then turned on each other, taking the sides of their mothers, and rained insults upon each other.

Madam Seba, the elder of the two women, is a retired civil servant serving her community on the High Islamic Council of Kolokani.

Madam Miriama is non-literate and unemployed; she survives on small jobs.

In 2015, World Vision invited Madam Seba to represent her organisation in a four-day Celebrating Families training. Madam Seba shocked her community when, on the third day of the training, she said, “Anyone who follows this course for two days, even if your heart is as black as coal, this training will help make it white as fresh milk.” She spoke of the hatred and lack of forgiveness that had characterised her life. Her family situation was well-known in the community.



When she got home that day, she apologised to Madam Miriama for her past behaviour, and thankfully received an apology in return. At the end of the training, Madam Seba testified: “This training was very beneficial for me and affected my family and my community life. It has given me a good understanding about parenting and preparing my children for the future. Above all, it has brought a good atmosphere into my family.” She is convinced that the Almighty God gave her the strength and capacity to make corrections in her life to help others adopt the principles she learned.

Seventeen months after the Celebrating Families training, we visited Madam Seba. We wondered how she had fared since the training. With confidence, she related the mutual trust that now exists in the family: “Today, it is Miriama who keeps the key to my door when I’m away from home, and vice-versa. Often we converse deep into the night, a thing that never happened before the training. We have the same concern for our children’s success in life.”

Madam Miriama also encountered Celebrating Families training and experienced similar changes. With gratitude, she related the changes that had occurred in the family: “Together, Seba, our children and I have established rules of conduct and this has helped us a lot.” The children have also taken up the heart-warming changes and are grateful for the gentle way their mothers now relate to them, devoid of the insults and curses they had known in the past.

To date, 1,103 faith leaders and other stakeholders from 28 areas in Mali have benefitted from Celebrating Families in the past two years. Remarkable stories like this have become the norm for Celebrating Families participants, making family life far more conducive to children’s nurture.



MAURITANIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Mauritanian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Mauritania:

- Low application of national policies on early childhood and health, nutrition and WASH promotion
- Negative cultural and religious practices (child marriage, FGM)
- High poverty and illiteracy, and a distressed education system

Mauritania snapshot

Population: 4,420,000¹

Religious context: 99% Muslim, 1% Christian²

World Vision in Mauritania³

Partner church networks: 1

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 1

Children who participated in World Vision programming: 9,558

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 2,591

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Kids' Clubs

Timed and Targeted Counselling

Community impact in Mauritania

The Church's mandate and ability to act in this country are limited. Mauritania's cultural and religious background (entirely Muslim) demands an exceptionally careful approach to active church involvement.

Partnership with the Church has helped to promote child well-being and protection through the training of instructors and facilitation of educational, recreational, and spiritual events for Christian and foreign children. Initiatives with the Church provide opportunities to contribute to the spiritual, moral, and social education of the children of Christian expats living in the country.

Religious leaders are engaged in advocacy strategy development. They take part in training, behavioural change, awareness raising, and advocacy activities as key actors and beneficiary targets. Faith actor engagement is gradually and tangibly increasing.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/maur/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

In churches, we have trained young leaders from the Scout movement on managing and leading children's clubs with supervision. Other religious leaders, including teachers from Koranic schools, are trained in the principles of child protection and Channels of Hope for Child Protection. Religious leaders host TV shows about child protection, and representatives from the National Union of Imams, Association of Mauritanian Ulemas, and Ministry of Islamic Orientation and Traditional Teaching assisted with the design, review, and adoption of an Islamic child protection guide covering 16 topics, under World Vision's guidance and supervision.



Health

Churches organise kids' clubs on hygiene and sanitation. Other religious leaders and female leaders are trained in maternal and infant health, child marriages, WASH, and FGM. Religious leaders host TV shows about maternal and infant health, FGM, child marriage and WASH. We also raised children's awareness of hand washing through songs and activities led by an artist specialising in children's entertainment.



Education

We've raised awareness and conducted training for young mentors from church-affiliated youth groups and movements, and for youth groups. Other religious leaders are engaged in Celebrating Families training and workshops and in raising awareness about the importance of education.

Prayer request for Mauritania

Pray for calm and successful dialogue between political actors, civil society actors, and the country – in the interest of the population's peaceful cohabitation. Pray for ministry growth for World Vision Mauritania, as this will qualitatively improve children's well-being. Pray for peaceful political dialogue that seeks to ensure the well-being of the whole population.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN PARTICULAR, AND HUMANITY IN GENERAL

Imam Dieng Abderahmane, a Celebrating Families facilitator, testifies:

“I thank God for this opportunity, and I pray God to assist World Vision and its staff members so that they keep helping and guiding us. I have a great impression about this training. I had a project in mind for quite some time now, which is about creating a unit for family conflict management and support. After our training, I felt the need even more strongly and had the courage to establish this unit. At the end of this training, I was very much enlightened on how to assist families. I cannot find the right words to tell you how rich the training content was. As a father and an imam, my life was illuminated with the training's multiple objectives to support families in particular, and humanity in general. For the first time in my life, I offered my family a heart of love drawn in pink on a white sheet. My dear wife was touched by this action; she was so happy and felt loved, and my children kept smiling and repeating, 'Dad, you brought us a lovely gift.' I felt more close and loving toward my family than ever.”

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Mexican communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Mexico:

- Low quality of government services in health, education and safety
- Lack of academic and employment opportunities for 16- to 25-year-olds
- Lack of trained staff for fostering social cohesion

Mexico snapshot

Population: 129,163,000¹

Religious context: 89.3% Catholic, 8% Evangelical, 2.7% Other²

World Vision in Mexico³

Partner church networks: 24

Individual church partners: 340

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 17

Church leaders trained: 138 leaders in 340 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 28,308

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Child Participation

Children and Youth Leadership

Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA)

Tender Parenting

Solidarity Fasting

Raising Children with Tenderness

Networks for Violence against Children

Community impact in Mexico

The Church creates networks around various children's issues to provide humanitarian aid using a "tool kit."

We also work together on campaigns involving common issues and causes. We seek to strengthen the commitment of churches to children, continue to increase their skills, provide support for their monitoring work and fund projects together.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://cuentame.inegi.org.mx/poblacion/habitantes.aspx?tema=P> and <http://www.beta.inegi.org.mx/temas/religion/>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches are involved through pastoral work with children, adolescents, and youth, building values, and creating activities. Other religious leaders also provide spaces to gather and offer aid and support to reinforce these activities.



Child Protection

Churches are involved through awareness campaigns about the reality of violence against children, with particular emphasis on migrant children. We seek to promote a culture of tender treatment of children. Churches also create spaces and facilitate conversations about violence against children.

Prayer request for Mexico

We pray that we may return to our organisational principles, and that we may try to train our leaders on our organisational identity.

FASTING IN SOLIDARITY BUILDS COOPERATION FOR CHILD PROTECTION

“Follow Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour, and work with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and give testimony of the good news of the Kingdom of God”: That is our great mission. Fasting in Solidarity is a wonderful opportunity to share our message and, thus, become active drivers of change in communities.

In cases of violence, children and adolescents are the most affected. Further, when they are left without a responsible adult to protect them, they are exposed to various kinds of abuse. We are convinced that the Kingdom of God is for everyone, and that God wants children and adolescents to be tenderly protected and to grow up happy, in a safe environment that protects them and allows them to develop their potential.

In Tlatocani on March 30, 2016, religious leaders, children, and adolescents held a massive event, the closing of Fasting in Solidarity. This felt like the highest point in the Easter events. They left their communities to raise a voice for those who can't.

Sixteen communities, with 15 religious leaders, eight Catholic leaders (catechism teachers), seven Evangelical leaders (pastors), one leader from the municipal seat, and three Servants of the Word missionaries from the State of Puebla participated in this closing act. Fasting in Solidarity started in January and ended with this special activity in March. Its themes were: “Speak for those who can't speak; go out to defend the weak; speak to judge with fairness and in the defence of the humble and poor,” as well as “Violence-Free Schools”.





This is an important step. In the past, churches worked independently when it came to Fasting in Solidarity. This was held in just a few communities, and closing ceremonies took place in the same community. But this year's activity was a massive participative event held at the town hall. Through it, leaders of different faith denominations interacted with each other and expressed their opinions. Working with the structure of religious leaders of other faith denominations is an important achievement.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Mongolian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Mongolia:

- Lack of safe places to play
- Lack of sanitation and hygiene facilities, especially in rural areas
- Poor understanding and awareness of child well-being

Mongolia snapshot

Population: 3,076,000¹

Religious context: 41% None, 31% Shamanist, 22% Buddhist²

World Vision in Mongolia³

Partner church networks: 17

Individual church partners: 127

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 30

Church leaders trained: 214 leaders in 54 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 15,500

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Children's Prayer Day
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs
Musical instrument training
Sports Day

Community impact in Mongolia

We've seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact for child well-being through World Children's Prayer Day, organised in three places with about 2,000 participants. We've also conducted a variety of effective trainings, including capacity-building training for children with disabilities and their parents/caregivers; family education training; and Celebrating Recovery six-month trainings for those with alcohol addiction.

Church leaders have engaged in advocacy through collaboration with the network of churches under the Mongolia Evangelical Alliance and through local activities organised in collaboration with the local church.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² www.en.nso.mn and <http://www.operationworld.org/country/mong/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Well-being

Churches have been conducting awareness-raising activities related to child protection and child rights, with a focus on teenagers. Local churches have also combined efforts towards health education matters, issues pertaining to alcohol and substance abuse and other issues related to family well-being.



Youth Life Skills

Local church leaders conducted training and organised sports activities for Youth Summer Camp. Trainings promoted behaviour changes through good attitudes. A capacity-building training for youth life skills also included alcohol and drug abuse prevention.



Disability Inclusion

Churches conducted trainings and meetings for people with disabilities and their parents/caregivers. Trainings included “Rainbow of Eternal Promise,” Celebrating Families, and “Let’s Develop Together.”

Prayer request for Mongolia

Pray for the local church and community to increase their participation in children’s holistic development – for skills development and to end violence against children. Pray that children’s voices may be heard in the Mongolian government and society.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY AND HELPING TO FREE OTHERS FROM ALCOHOL ADDICTION

In Khuvsgul, Celebrating Recovery has been having a significant impact. This six-month systematic training occurs with a closed group. The training is Bible-based, and the main audience are those addicted to alcohol. After five years, 87 people have graduated from this training course and have successfully returned to their families or went on to help others.

The most recent group of 12 graduates say that their lives have been completely changed. Their hearts are filled with God’s love, and they desire to help others who are stuck in the same path. Out of this group, three people were sent to other provinces, four to serve in Ulaanbaatar, four to serve in Khuvsgul Province, and one went to Korea for further Bible studies.

MOZAMBIQUE

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Mozambican communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Mozambique:

- Early marriages
- Lack of access to education and healthcare
- Lack of access to clean water

Mozambique snapshot

Population: 29,669,000¹

Religious context: 46% Christian, 31% Indigenous beliefs, 23% Muslim²

World Vision in Mozambique³

Partner church networks: 5

Individual church partners: 528

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 5

Church leaders trained: 619 leaders in 166 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 103,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Mozambique

We have seen church partnerships make a significant impact in child well-being through boys' and girls' savings groups. The project encourages girls and boys, with support from their parents and guardians, to save money so that they can invest in their education. Most of the savings groups are based in local congregations, and the church leaders play a significant role in encouraging the participants. These groups are one strategy for reducing the economic vulnerability of teenage girls and their families, thereby decreasing the number of early marriages.

Additional resources would help World Vision to scale up training of church and local leaders in child protection, train Sunday school teachers and raise community awareness of how to end early marriages.

We hope to expand our partnerships with the Roman Catholic Church, one of Mozambique's major Christian denominations. We also partner formally with other faith groups through the Mozambique Council of Religions (COREMO).

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/moza/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water and Sanitation

Christian religious leaders are currently reviewing the programme manual for Jesus, Source of Living Water. We'll use this in Kids' Clubs (which will include Christian children as well as those from other religions) to teach water management, hygiene and environmental sanitation. Members of a variety of religious communities also participate via water committees.



Education and Child Protection

Churches are engaged in this work through the training of leaders for Channels of Hope for Child Protection. Other religious leaders are also involved in child protection awareness and training; we're working particularly to reduce religious and cultural practices that increase rates of early marriage.



Health

Churches are engaged in health work through the training of leaders for Channels of Hope for HIV and AIDS and through other trainings to reduce infection rates and stigmatisation of people living with AIDS. A variety of faith communities participate in community health committees, raising awareness of and receiving training related to malaria, diarrhea, cholera and HIV.

Prayer request for Mozambique

Pray for peace and political stability in Mozambique. Pray also that the whole society will take action to end early marriages.

COLLABORATION WITH LOVE: RELIGIOUS PLATFORM FOR CHILD WELL-BEING

Aiming to actively engage faith-based organisations in ending violence against children, the Mozambican Religious Council established the Religious Platform for Child Well-being in Mozambique, with World Vision's support. The Platform focuses on eliminating early marriages and child abuse.

World Vision is challenging the Platform to use its influence at local levels, to influence changes that will contribute to child well-being. We are very much aware of the religious leaders' influence in the communities; the goal of ending early marriage is only possible with their support and action.

The Platform brings together a variety of religious leaders, including Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Bha'i. Sheik Aminuddin Mohamad, Chairman of the Religious Council, said, "We are sending a message to the world, showing that different congregations can live together. We are showing the world our collaboration with love."

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Burmese communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Myanmar:

- Poverty and economic hardship
- Parents' lack of education
- Weak and corrupt government; limited access to basic services

Myanmar snapshot

Population: 53,371,000¹

Religious context: 82% Buddhist, 8% Christian, 3% Muslim²

World Vision in Myanmar³

Partner church networks: 291

Individual church partners: 308

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 23

Church leaders trained: 110 leaders in 213 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 25,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Early Childhood Development trainings

Community impact in Myanmar

We've seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact when raising awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction and anti-trafficking during church summer camp activities.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/myan/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches set up early childhood education centres and WV provides necessary support such as training.



Child Protection

Child Protection Advocacy Groups (CPAG) in the programme consist of church members and leaders of other faith-based organisations. World Vision supports CPAG with training, local level advocacy, and child protection.

Area programs provide awareness training on child development, child protection, human trafficking, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) during Youth Summer Camps, Mothers' Meetings, and Church Trainings. In some child protection cases, the victims urgently need safe places to live. In these situations, Buddhist monks accept and look after victims during the crisis period.



Livelihoods

We provide savings training to church members so that they can set up Village Saving and Loan Associations and income-generating activities.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Area programs provide WASH facilities and trainings, and Buddhist monks give maintenance support. Buddhist monks were involved in collecting community contributions, together with community-based groups, to ensure that the facilities are sustainable. Churches and monasteries provide venues, and they support trainings, awareness sessions, community meetings, and child gatherings.

Prayer request for Myanmar

Pray that peace, reconciliation and justice will prevail, lifting people out of poverty. Pray also for freedom to preach the gospel.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN KADOE VILLAGE

When Kadoe Village faced drinking water scarcity, community groups mobilised to solve this problem. In this initiative, World Vision supported the construction of a pump house, water treatment facilities, a water storage tank, water pipes and a water pump. Buddhist monks contributed land for the building, raw water, and some construction materials. World Vision provided approximately half of the cost, and Buddhist monks contributed the balance. A community-based organisation operates this drinking water facility. It sells clean drinking water for 300 kyats per 20-litre bottle, and this income supports the community development fund. The community-based organisation then uses this fund for children's education, health, and social needs. The community-based organisation and the monks supervise the maintenance of this initiative.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Nepali communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Nepal:

- Child marriage
- Poverty and malnutrition
- Discrimination (particularly against low caste children)

Nepal snapshot

Population: 29,305,000¹

Religious context: 71% Hindu, 16% Buddhist, 5% Muslim, 1% Christian²

World Vision in Nepal³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 82

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 13

Church leaders trained: 45 leaders in 65 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 110

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Empowered Worldview

Community impact in Nepal

Nepal is the second poorest country in Asia, and children from poor families often cannot go to school; they can't afford uniforms, books and other school items, and their families may need them to work to help provide for the family. Low caste children remain the most vulnerable, as they are not only poor but also experience discrimination in education, health, and access to water.

World Vision finds it most effective to partner with faith networks rather than with specific churches and denominations in Nepal. We are building church leaders' capacity through Channels of Hope and through the Micah Network.

We are implementing Channels of Hope for Child Protection with multi-faith leaders; we will also engage with multi-faith leaders for a campaign focused on ending child marriages.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/nepa/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Within the context of a country that is quite hostile towards Christianity, World Vision has chosen to work with a faith network rather than through individual churches. We also seek to engage with leaders of other faiths in Nepal. Through Channels of Hope and through the Micah Network, we are building the capacity of leaders from different faiths to better protect children in Nepal. We will also engage with multi-faith leaders for a campaign focused on ending child marriage.



Health, Resilience and Education

World Vision Nepal aims to increase protection for vulnerable groups, particularly children, from harmful practices, including child marriage and gender-based violence. We raise awareness of children's rights and child protection through Channels of Hope projects, working with different faith leaders in two districts. Through the Micah Network, we currently exploring opportunities to work together on youth empowerment to increase young people's life skills through the future Nepal Youth program.

Prayer request for Nepal

Please pray for good leaders in Nepal. Pray that World Vision would demonstrate God's compassion to the communities and children with whom we work; that we would be efficient and effective in reaching the most vulnerable children; that our leaders would have wisdom, creativity and courage to move the organisation in the right direction; and that we would be a consistent voice in advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable.

WORLD VISION TRAININGS RAISE AWARENESS AND PROVIDE SKILLS TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES' CHILDREN

Sri Raj Miya is a Muslim faith leader from Lamjung. Through World Vision, he received training on child protection and child marriage issues. He also learned about faith leaders' roles in ensuring child rights from religious point of view. He was motivated to act differently, as he used to be focused on religious affairs only. He initiated a new role in his community, forming the Muslim Congregational Hope Action Team.

He now has more knowledge on child protection issues and is contributing to children's wellbeing. Every Saturday before the regular sermon, he spends at least 15 minutes teaching about child protection issues among adult Muslims. He also teaches about child protection, children's rights, and the Quran to Muslim children every Thursday in Madrasa. In this way, he is promoting child rights and social harmony within the Muslim community.

In addition, he is active in working with other inter-faith leaders through the Faith Alliance for Child Transformation group. There is a common objective among the multi-faith leaders to promote children's rights and ensure child protection in their communities.

Sri Raj Miya says, "World Vision has provided this common ground for all faith leaders to fight against the harmful traditional practices. On the occasion of Eid, I had the opportunity to greet and welcome other faith leaders after 13 years. This has motivated me to continue such positive social and religious values in the future, too."

Shanta Tamang, a member of Congregational Hope Action Team from Bajhakhet, Lamjung District, has recently received training from World Vision on child protection and case management. She said, “This training was very helpful. I am now able to properly handle cases. I now feel more responsible in addressing the children’s issues that occur in our society. We had a great opportunity to interact with key government stakeholders (Deputy Superintendent of Police, Attorney General, District Women and Child office, Child Helpline chairman, Media). In addition, I realized protecting and caring for only our family’s children is not enough. We must think of the most vulnerable children in our communities, too. We must put into practice the things that we learn. There are many issue of neglect, abuse, and selective abortion.”

She also shared that she was able to provide support (education and food) to Supriya, a five-year-old girl in her village, on her own initiative. Furthermore, she is working for her rehabilitation and support in coordination with different government and related stakeholders.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Nicaraguan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Nicaragua:

- Unequal power in the family, school, and community translating into violence between partners, colleagues and parents and children
- A lack of prioritisation by the Church on children's social issues

Nicaragua snapshot

Population: 6,218,000¹

Religious context: 90% Christian, 10% None²

World Vision in Nicaragua³

Partner church networks: 10

Individual church partners: 616

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 9

Church leaders trained: 3,789 leaders in 159 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 2,300

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Safe Churches for Children

Tender Parenting

Community impact in Nicaragua

The greatest achievements of partnering with churches for the well-being of children have centred around child protection, stressing awareness and training of religious leaders to prevent violence against children and to promote tender parenting.

In addition, churches have supported various recent public activities within the framework of the “Uso mi voz contra el maltrato infantil” (I raise my voice against child abuse) campaign. Churches have also taken part in the youth volunteer movement protesting child violence in different locations.

We engage faith leaders in advocacy work by keeping them current on the social issues that Nicaraguan children face. We also raise church leaders' awareness through biblical-theological and pastoral reflection that takes children's well-being into consideration.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/nica/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Churches participate in awareness-raising and training processes facilitated by World Vision. The promotion of values in children and adolescents, Channels of Hope, Celebrating Families, Safe Churches for Children, and Tender Parenting modules have been well-received by churches.



Spiritual Nurture of Children

Churches are strengthening their capacity for child development by reproducing some initiatives designed and promoted by World Vision, such as Celebrating Families and the Promotion of Values.

Prayer request for Nicaragua

Pray for us as we prepare technical approaches, that we may positively impact children's well-being through our relationship with churches.

STRIVING FOR FAMILIAL HARMONY

In Limay, Estelí, thanks to the Tender Parenting workshops held in partnership with the Catholic Church, Rafaela Silva says that her relationship with her two children has changed. After she attended the workshops offered by World Vision, she said that the family bonds between her and her children grew stronger. She said, "I now hug my children more often and have better communication with their dad. This has helped them a lot because they see how I interact with their father, and I am a better role model.

"My children are growing and they come to me more often to tell me when they are sick or when they want to chat. These workshops are important. Also, relating them to God's commandments helps us to reflect even more, and to strive to live in harmony."

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Nigerien communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Niger:

- One of the world's highest rates of child marriage
- Extreme poverty and staggeringly high population growth
- High child malnutrition rate and low school enrollment

Niger snapshot

Population: 21,477,000¹

Religious context: 97% Muslim, 2.5% Indigenous beliefs, 0.5% Christian²

World Vision in Niger³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 66

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 6

Church leaders trained: 66 leaders in 66 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 1,550

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Niger

In Niger, the contribution of church members as facilitators made it possible to train hundreds of family heads on the Celebrating Families curriculum. Many parents came to the workshop with ideas about education that were detrimental to child development. In the end, however, these same parents could attest that they were wrong, and they made commitments to change how they educate their children.

For advocacy on a national scale, we engage national church structures – the Alliance des Missions et Églises Évangéliques du Niger (AMEEN) [Alliance of Evangelical Missions and Churches of Niger] and the Catholic Church.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/nige/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The Church is working on the topics: “harmful effects of open defecation” and “the risks associated with drinking non-potable water.” Last year we organized a facilitator training seminar aimed at Christian leaders, and at the end we had developed a biblical argument to be used as a working guide in community outreach. The Islamic Association of Niger is working on these same topics, and we also held a facilitator training seminar aimed at Muslim leaders and developed a Koran-based argument.



Education and Child Protection

The church is involved in Kids' Clubs by training Sunday school teachers through an integrated curriculum that factors in training for children in its holistic aspects. Churches are also involved in family outreach to promote enrollment and keep children in school. Religious leaders play a key role in community child protection committees.



Advocacy

We have engaged the Church and the Islamic Association of Niger in popularising spiritual development goals and in praying for their achievement. We will be working closely with both on the new campaign to combat violence against children. To give the church and Islamic Association the tools they need, we're planning Citizen Voice and Action training for Christian leaders this year. We also conduct Celebrating Families training.



Savings Groups

Together with AMEEN (Alliance des Missions et Églises Évangéliques du Niger), Niger's largest Christian association, we have delivered savings group training programmes for women in five regions of the country.

Prayer request for Niger

Pray for peace in the Sahel countries, especially in the Lake Chad Basin, including Niger. Pray for World Vision's staff and property, that child well-being activities in the field run normally. Pray for the Christian Commitments, Faith and Development, and Child Protection/Advocacy units, for the work they do so closely with religious leaders, and for their full contribution to child well-being. Pray that we can clearly and courageously express what our faith in Jesus Christ means for our day-to-day work.

CREATING A CULTURE OF PEACE

Three notes on how World Vision's activities are creating a culture of peace:

One participant in a Celebrating Families workshop had been in conflict with his uncle for years, despite the Islamic Association's efforts to mediate. After the workshop, however, he decided to call the Islamic Association and tell them that he had decided to forgive and reconcile with his uncle.

During a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) training for religious leaders, the Christian and Muslim leaders asked for some Christian and Koranic arguments to support their sermon/khutbah preparations, so that they could more easily persuade their communities.

Christian and Muslim leaders sat around together discussing the topics of family life, child protection, and hygiene. This is a significant bridge towards peace!

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Pakistani communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Pakistan:

- Socio-economic context
- Political conflict and radicalism

Pakistan snapshot

Population: 197,016,000¹

Religious context: 96% Muslim, 2% Christian, 1% Hindu²

World Vision in Pakistan³

Partner church networks: 8

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 12

World Vision Faith programme models used:
Channels of Hope

Community impact in Pakistan

World Vision's work in Pakistan is always side by side with the Muslim faith; the Islamic context is somewhat restrictive and must be approached carefully. We build bridges across denominations and faith groups; this requires significant sensitivity to our context. We are able to initiate conversations due to our demonstrated long-term commitment to care for children and youth.

We have seen positive impact through Channels of Hope, which we first integrated in urban areas. We are now working with Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health along with Child Protection.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/paki/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with faith communities in PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Papua New Guinean communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.

Papua New Guinea snapshot

Population: 8,251,000¹

World Vision in Papua New Guinea²

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Community impact in Papua New Guinea

At a local level, churches are involved in community awareness-raising activities and trainings. They also act as point persons in situations of gender-based violence in the communities. At the national level, under the Gender project, faith leaders were involved in a campaign video to stop violence against women, which was aired on national TV.



Challenges to child well-being in Papua New Guinea:

- Violence, poverty and illiteracy
- Attitudes and behaviours related to health, education, sanitation and parenting
- Misinterpretation of biblical messaging that justifies abuse

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Gender

Churches are part of the Channels of Hope for Gender programme to address gender-based violence and gender inequality. Churches were also part of the legal literacy awareness and training under the Gender project. Other religious leaders are beneficiaries of the Gender project and participants of the Channels of Hope for Gender approach and legal literacy activities. Faith leaders are involved in mobilising their congregations through Congregational Hope Action Teams to address gender issues.



Education

Churches run Early Childhood Development programmes and are supported by the Education project.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches are part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) committees, and involved in WASH Project implementation in the communities.

Prayer request for Papua New Guinea

Our office wants to expand our partnership and network with churches from the top down to the community level, so our prayer is for wisdom from God: to make this happen, and to see more church leaders get involved in addressing social issues that affect child well-being. We also pray that programme leaders may see the importance of involving church and religious leaders in our programming.

CREATING A VIOLENCE-FREE COMMUNITY THROUGH CHANNELS OF HOPE

Throughout Papua New Guinea, there are cultures where men are the head of the family and are able to discipline their wife and family through physical force. The outcomes of it can be brutal, often leaving women and children unconscious because of the heavy beating sustained and at times inflict lifelong injuries. Most of the time it goes unnoticed because it is seen as a normal way of life for husband and wife and children to become victims and perpetrators of violence.

Among those who are born in this kind of environment where use of force is normal is Pastor Kadasa Damaro who is now the District head for the NCD Seventh Day Church in the National Capital District. He vividly recalled how violence was part of life growing up in his village. “The perspective of domestic violence has been part of my village experience growing up. Now that I have become a Pastor the painted perspective of marriage violence has not erased easily,” said Pastor Kadasa.

“Apart from the church preaching, I provide counselling to young and married couples. Understanding the different cultures of people from different regions around Papua New Guinea is very challenging,” said Pastor Kadasa. “Because of the diversity in culture in our country, as a Pastor I find myself struggling especially to understand both partner (couple) cultures before advising and counselling with them.”

In 2015, World Vision Papua New Guinea's PNG Leaders Against Gender-Based Violence Project has invited church partners to be involved in the Channels of Hope Gender training. Through the training Pastor Kadasa has learnt how to understand cultures in order to counsel couples, children and young people who have been victims and perpetrators of different forms of violence.

"The training has greatly impacted my life to become a role model to others and has built my knowledge capacity to better understand the cultural barriers and stigma, to interpret the biblical preaching within the context of our culture. That has greatly changed lives and improved relationship," said Pastor Kadasa.

After realising not only the church congregation needs his help, but people in his neighbourhood and community need him to advocate and provide counselling around gender-based violence. Pastor Kadasa started counselling within his neighbour and after some months many, the husband who abused his wife constantly has greatly changed and ceased to use violence.

This has prompted the Gordons Ridge community to start a community initiative called the Neighbour Watch, with the purpose to keep an eye out within the community for domestic violence and any forms of abuse. Through this initiative the community has changed and transformed, becoming violence-free for all community members. The initiative has gained recognition and demand within nearby communities for Pastor Kadasa to continue his work there. Through his efforts, the community has now recognised him as one of the community leaders.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Peruvian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Peru:

- Bridging regional gaps in access to basic social services
- Family violence
- Humanitarian emergencies

Peru snapshot

Population: 32,166,000¹

Religious context: 90% Christian, 10% None²

World Vision in Peru³

Partner church networks: 17

Individual church partners: 196

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 16

Church leaders trained: 1,388 leaders in 196 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 7,100

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Fasting in Solidarity

Community impact in Peru

We've seen partnerships with church leaders have great impact on child well-being through engagement with Channels of Hope workshops. They have helped to raise awareness and reaffirm leaders' roles as protectors of childhood, as well as helped to reduce violence. Leaders can replicate the training in their communities to promote equality, respect and mutual support.

We are centring our advocacy initiatives on the reduction of violence against the most vulnerable. For this, we have contextualised and standardised methodologies including Channels of Hope for Child Protection and for Gender, Celebrating Families, Fasting in Solidarity and Tender Parenting. We are strengthening local and national leaders of the Evangelical, Catholic and Adventist churches.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/zamb/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

The Church will be strengthened using the Channels of Hope for Child Protection and for Gender, Celebrating Families, and Fasting in Solidarity methodologies, geared to reduce violence against children and to emphasize the attention given to more vulnerable children. We will continue working with young people in church camps. We will also continue to participate in the Religions for Peace roundtable, creating links between common child protection topics.



Education and Life Skills

We will work on the church-school bond, focusing on family and using Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Celebrating Families trainings to reduce home violence.

Prayer request for Peru

Pray for the strengthening of the Christian Commitment Network in Peru, which involves strategic sectors and has allowed us to reach our current goals.

TAKING ON THE 'BURDEN' OF CHILD PROTECTION

Lidia Burga is a lawyer in a city near Lima, and she is married to an evangelical pastor. Lidia is known for having a strong voice and sharing her ideas with passion. Since Lidia and a group of leaders in her church took part in a Channels of Hope workshop, she says she feels the “burden” of upholding child protection in her community.

“We took the programme and spread it among the congregation. How wonderful! I shared what I learned with a group of sisters, and my husband planned a special schedule so that everyone could get involved...to start working with children; not only within the congregation but beyond as well,” said Lidia. “This has opened our eyes, has given us something to think about, and has placed on us the burden of going out as a church.”

World Vision uses Channels of Hope to mobilise faith leaders, so that they can tackle the central issues affecting their communities. Lidia and other members of her ecclesiastic community are now sharing what they learned with other parents and are creating a network that takes care of children, since their community has been known for its high rate of crime and home violence.

“Sometimes we are focused on preaching the Word, but we fail to check whether we fulfill it. In our case, we must also go into the community and show we love our neighbour. We must not stay within our walls, with the doors locked, and preach only to the same believers who hear the same thing,” she said.

“During the workshop, we were taught about children’s behaviour when they experience violence. Now the parents can identify and pay attention to it,” she said. “Some have opened their eyes and have begun to participate. Mothers take more care of their children, adolescents, and even children from other homes.”

The faith congregation Lidia belongs to has taken its first steps to become a church that protects children, and they have made several plans to carry out this task. “Now there is a group in a town area. I pray for the Lord to fill their hearts with this burning passion, this burden. It's just making the decision and doing it. I'm praying for each one to do their work and for God to continue providing,” she concluded.

THE PHILIPPINES

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Philippine communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in the Philippines:

- Persistent poverty
- Poor access to basic health care and education
- Frequent natural disasters

The Philippines snapshot

Population: 104,918,000¹

Religious context: 94% Christian, 5% Muslim, 1% None²

World Vision in the Philippines³

Partner church networks: 17

Individual church partners: 124

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 37

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 118,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope (HIV and AIDS and Child Protection)

Citizen Voice and Action

Economic Empowerment through Community Managed Savings and Credit Association and NFS

End Violence Against Children (EVAC Campaign)

Children as Peacebuilders

Spiritual Nurture for Filipino Children

Children in Prayer

Partnering with Churches

Community impact in the Philippines

We've seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact for Child Protection, Economic Resiliency, and Health and Nutrition. For example, in Economic Resiliency: the Amores Interfaith group in Zamboanga City consists of leaders from different Christian churches and from Islamic groups. World Vision formed the Amores group as a peace-building initiative in conflict-ridden southern Mindanao. The Amores group adopted the savings mechanism, Community Managed Savings and Credit Association (CoMSCA), after one of its members was trained by World Vision. The savings group reinforced the value of trust and fellowship and offered affordable loans to its members.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² Philippine Statics Authority and <http://www.operationworld.org/country/phil/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Churches participate in the Channels of Hope for Child Protection orientations and Channels of Hope Action Teams. The teams meet, plan and take action in response to Child Protection issues in their areas. Churches create greater community awareness on key child protection issues by using language that is meaningful and appropriate; they also develop and implement child protection mechanisms in the church, including codes of conduct and reporting and response mechanisms for child abuse.



Economic Resiliency

Churches are active members of Community Managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) and advocate for them in their churches.



Health and Nutrition

Churches and interfaith groups helped in reviewing and validating health interventions and project models (HIV and AIDS, TB) in light of faith perspectives. They have incorporated messages and information about child health care into worship services, religious activities, and child religious rites, using special prayers and Scripture readings that relate to faith and good health. We have educated medical and social work practitioners on blending medical, religious and cultural practices in their work.

Prayer request for the Philippines

Pray that we will be able to increase and diversify our resources to respond to the needs of three million children by 2020 and engage at least 20% of the high net worth individuals and corporations in our ministries for children, families and communities. Pray that our partnership with Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines will be strengthened and that more churches will be involved in our programmes. Pray that our leaders and staff may deepen their commitment to integrate faith and development in everything they do.

FROM REBEL SOLDIER TO PEACE ADVOCATE AND GENTLE FATHER

By Ahmad*

I'm 42 years old and I hail from Mindanao, Philippines. Some years ago, I went off to join the war in Mindanao. I left my wife with our three little kids in our hometown. My wife was pregnant with our fourth child. For two years, I had no communication with my family. At some point, I felt apathetic about them. I was only focused on the ultimate goal of protecting my tribe.

Militants and our group attacked each other. I carried heavy weapons and experienced all the dangers of war. My aim was to capture, or, even better, kill our enemies. I killed a number of them. I almost died from poor sanitation and hunger, but thankfully, God gave me another chance to survive.

After two years in the war, I finally returned home, and my family welcomed me with open arms. I tried to live a normal life, but it was a struggle. Sad to say, I was not a good husband and father. Whenever my kids made mistakes, I beat them without a second thought. My wife faced physical and verbal abuse whenever we had misunderstandings. My wife and kids dreaded me. The kids ran away from home countless times.

I admit that I wasn't a good person. I killed and hurt people, even my family. I hadn't blamed myself because that was how I was brought up; I inflicted similar cruel behaviour on my wife and kids. But later I knew that I was wrong. And now I know it wasn't too late to change.

When World Vision came to our community, I was invited to represent the Muslim groups to be part of the Provincial Interfaith Core team. They chose me because I've been an active imam (head of Muslim religious community) in our village. I attended seminars, conferences, and trainings on



Local Capacity for Peace and Culture of Peace through World Vision. I was given the opportunity to interact with fellow Muslims as well as Christian and Lumad brothers and sisters.

From then on, I learned to understand and appreciate the beauty of peace. I didn't hesitate to share my learnings with my fellow Muslim brothers and sisters, and even with other religious groups in our community. I worked hard to deepen harmonious relationships in our community.

My efforts were not in vain. In our community, we started to discuss challenges and now we tend to solve them collectively. One example was our problem of access to clean water. With the assistance of World Vision and the local government, we helped each other to construct the water pipes. It was successful. We now have access to clean water.

Our village in Mindanao is the home of Tri-People—Christian, Muslim, and Lumads. The Tri-People are mostly farmers, living with and by their farms. The land is harsh, arid, and has rocky expanses of flat plains with rough mountainous patches. Most families produce corn and bananas exclusively. With the various economic interventions introduced by World Vision, I learned about diversified farming and natural farming. We learned many ways to boost our income. In this way, we can now sustain our families, especially for the education of our kids.

Most importantly, I'm thankful that as a father and a husband, I learned to restore broken family relationships. I don't hurt my wife and my kids anymore. One of my four kids is sponsored by World Vision. And besides educational support, non-sponsored kids also receive benefits from World Vision through empowering children's potential, especially teaching them to become peace advocates.

Whenever I see a father or a mother hurting their children, I can't help but break into tears. Then I try reaching out to the parents, teaching them about responsible parenthood. I have learned to value my family and other families as well. They're the most precious things.

Lastly, as a Muslim peace advocate, I hope that all parties in the ongoing conflict in Mindanao will overcome it by extending peace negotiations and by acting not as angry warriors out to seek revenge, but as peace-builders resolutely seeking peace.

**not his real name*

ROMANIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Romanian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Romania:

- Poverty, few resources, and high unemployment, especially in rural areas
- Inadequate access to education and health care, especially in rural areas
- Alcoholism and violence in families

Romania snapshot

Population: 19,679,000¹

Religious context: 87% Christian, 11% none²

World Vision in Romania³

Partner church networks: 4

Individual church partners: 283

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 67

Church leaders trained: 43 leaders in 293 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 52,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Child Protection and Advocacy
Christ to the children/Youth Bible Curriculum
Choose School
Citizen Voice and Action
Good Steward
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Romania

We've seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact for child well-being through local fundraising campaigns that support the most vulnerable children for Christmas, and through the Celebrating Families project for parents and their families.

Church leaders are part of the Community Consultative Committees, in which they advocate for the prevention of child abuse. They also promote child well-being and moral values through their Sunday religious services.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/roma/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches are involved in developing projects and programmes for children (e.g. “Choose School” and “Christ to the children”). We hope to prevent school abandonment and reduce functional illiteracy through: children’s activities organised by priests, religious instruction classes that promote and nurture philanthropic behaviour and Christian leadership, summer schools in which children participate in some remedial activities, the Celebrating Families curriculum, and religious teachers organising vocational and counselling classes.



Child Protection

Priests are members of the Community Consultative Committees; they are involved in identifying child protection-related cases (neglect, risk of school abandonment, child abuse, and medical cases) and identifying community resources to resolve the cases.

Priests involved in the Celebrating Families project can replicate it. Other priests/pastors organise fundraising campaigns for the most vulnerable children, to address their needs and support their social integration. Religious leaders keep in touch with vulnerable families and support them with counselling and advice.



Economic Development

Churches are involved in developing small economic initiatives to create jobs in rural areas. Priests help to select the project beneficiaries, and deliver sessions of the Good Steward Training to the beneficiaries. One rural parish developed a small bakery with the support of World Vision and other donors. This initiative has supported poor families by hiring six people and providing bread free of charge to several poor families.



Access Project

Priests are involved in Citizen Voice and Action meetings and community mobilisation and engagement to support social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Prayer request for Romania

We pray for strength to endure the actions of our wrongdoers. Make us wise enough to find ways to repair their deeds and to create a better world for us all.

We pray for health and support for poor families and for those who are suffering. May God give them strength in their faith and bring them hope.

We pray for the current political and civil society situation in Romania and for peace and harmony among Romanian people. We also pray that the powerful leaders would genuinely focus on alleviating Romanian children’s challenges and struggles, as nearly half of Romanian children are living in severe poverty or are at risk of falling into severe poverty.

We praise God for his unconditional love, support, and wisdom. We pray that communities place their children first in all their actions and are better prepared to nurture children's hopes and dreams for the future. We pray that parents can provide for children's well-being within safe and clean environments. We pray for healthy families and happy and educated children.

FINDING PURPOSE AND HOPE AGAIN THROUGH ACCESS

"If it hadn't been for the support I received, all the health problems would have put me down," says Ion G., 61-years-old. He used to be an active person, full of energy and dedicated to his job. Most of the time he worked as a locksmith, but after 30 years of employment, he had to retire as he was diagnosed with diabetes, hepatitis, and heart problems. He strictly followed the treatment plan and dedicated his time to household activities. But things got worse three years ago when he cut his toe on a wire. Due to his weak immune system and diabetes, the wound created complications. In the following months, Ion had three consecutive surgeries; the last one amputated his entire left leg. He needed a lot of time to heal and found it very difficult to adjust to his new life. But since October 2015, when he became part of the ACCESS project developed by World Vision, he has started to have hope and enjoy life again.

Whenever he thinks of his time spent in the hospital and the long period of recovery, Ion becomes glum and his voice trembles, as if he still feels the unbearable pain he went through: "The pieces of bad news came one after another. When I went to the hospital with the infection at my toe, they told me that they had to amputate it. After the surgery, they let me go home, but after two weeks the infection recurred and I needed to return to the hospital. They amputated my leg from the knee. Then as the infection was still there, they amputated my entire leg," Ion recalls sadly.

The period following the amputation proved to be very difficult for Ion. "When I got back home, I realized that my universe was totally changed. I felt exhausted, and I couldn't do anything without my wife's help," he remembers. His two children, Daniela, 37, and Cristinel, 36, who work and live abroad, came to visit and stay with him as often as they could. And his wife unconditionally offered him all her love, care, and attention. However, despite his family's support, he felt isolated and useless. "I missed my daily activities: working in the garden and helping my wife. I also missed going out in the community and meeting people," he adds.

In October 2015, Ion became a beneficiary of the ACCESS project, and he soon received a wheelchair according to his needs. This proved to be a turning point in his recovery and general mood. He learned to use it rapidly and started to do a lot of things by himself. "Since I received the wheelchair, I have come back to life and felt myself again. In the morning, I get up from bed using a frame, and then I sit in the wheelchair. I go to the bathroom to wash and shave by myself," he says proudly.

The wheelchair helped Ion regain his self-confidence and feel useful. "I am very happy because I can help my wife with household chores. I collect the fruits from lower branches, and I sort the bean, the corn, and the sunflower seeds," he says.

The social activities organised within the ACCESS project were also of great importance for Ion. Before Easter, he was invited to participate in a spectacle of folk dances and songs that children, with the support of school and local authorities, had organised especially for persons with disabilities from the community. "I had a great time, and I was very thankful for the invitation. Children were very dedicated and offered us a beautiful performance. Everybody was nice and made us feel comfortable," he recalls. After the show, all the participants had time to talk. "It was great to talk with people who face the same challenges as you do. We encouraged one another," he says, smiling.

Because he had a great time in the community, Ion started going out more often. He goes to church on Sundays, watches the local football matches that take place in the community, and even participates in fairs. "When you are away from home, time passes differently and you forget all your pains," Ion says.

He was also the first to try the school's new access ramp. The school principal had seen that people with disabilities had difficulty accessing the event room, so he decided to modernise the access ramp and the alley. Ion says, "I am happy to see that people and authorities from our community are more and more dedicated to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Now we can enter the school and participate in the events that are organised there more easily."

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Rwandan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Rwanda:

- Inadequate infrastructure and resources for pre-primary education
- Lack of literacy and numeracy
- Malnutrition

Rwanda snapshot

Population: 12,208,000¹

Religious context: 80% Christian, 10% Muslim²

World Vision in Rwanda³

Partner church networks: 7

Individual church partners: 277

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 16

Church leaders trained: 506 leaders in 277 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: >99,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Empowered Worldview

Community impact in Rwanda

In Rwanda, World Vision partners with local churches and church umbrellas to ensure a holistic transformation that includes socio-economic, physical and spiritual aspects. We deliberately engage the church at both the community level and national level.

World Vision's church partnerships in Rwanda have played a significant role in spreading the message of hope, peace and reconciliation following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Church partnerships have also resulted in commendable work in promoting the spiritual nurture of children. In 2014 and 2015 alone, World Vision and churches touched the lives of more than 80,000 children through national events such as the Children for Christ Summit and Sunday of the Rwandan Child, jointly organized by churches and World Vision.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

World Vision Rwanda also signed a new Covenant of Partnership with seven church umbrellas in late 2016. These seven church umbrellas, representing nearly the entire body of Christ in the country, included Anglican, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Evangelical, and other Protestant denominations. This Covenant will help all parties broaden our interventions in health, resiliency and livelihood, and education, in addition to the spiritual nurture of children.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Resiliency and Livelihood

Churches are applying the Empowered Worldview model to change the economic status of their communities by using locally available resources.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches help to spread Bible-based behaviour-change messages, promoting good hygiene by training faith leaders and mobilizing congregations to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Prayer request for Rwanda

Please pray that the Lord opens the door for new funding in grants to help us implement the commitments made together with seven church umbrellas in our 5-Year Covenant of Partnership (2016-2021).

SOWING, WATERING, AND GROWING UNITY

Rwanda has a haunting past since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, when more than one million people were brutally murdered because of their ethnicity. In post-genocide Rwanda, scars of the genocide are everywhere, including the church.

The church lost its prophetic voice due to the political and ethnic divisions both before and during the genocide. Many of the clergy personally participated in the genocide either by killing directly, collaborating with the militia, or looting. Sanctuaries were used as human slaughterhouses, and some have now been turned into genocide museums.

Thousands of children were orphaned, and many mothers became widows. All are suffering the pain of the past and the burden of rebuilding from ashes, including the responsibility of raising the surviving children.





World Vision needed a holistic approach to help rebuild the nation. We carried out several activities together with churches. One highlight was the first-ever Children for Christ Summit, which brought together a total of 960 children aged 8-12 from all 30 districts of Rwanda. These children came from different Christian denominations to learn, pray, and build relationships together. This was the first time in the entire history of Christianity in Rwanda that all church umbrellas brought children together for spiritual nurture.

We organized the first-ever Sunday of the Rwandan Child where more than 76,500 children participated from over 1,200 local churches. We also trained 240 children's ministry leaders on the basics of child care, protection and spiritual nurture of children. We also held Bible knowledge competitions and gave wheelchairs to children with disabilities. Archbishop Onesphore Rwaje said, "This is what we call Christian unity. Unity is sown, pruned, watered, and grows. To start that with children as young as these, it means we have a better Rwanda for today and tomorrow."

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Senegalese communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Senegal:

- Reduction in quality of education due to recurring crises in the national education system
- Negative social practices and beliefs
- Ineffective enforcement of laws in favour of children
- Families' vulnerability to earthquakes and other disasters

Senegal snapshot

Population: 15,851,000¹

Religious context: 92% Muslim, 4% Christian, 2% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Senegal³

Partner church networks: 9

Individual church partners: 63

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 12

Church leaders trained: 200 leaders in 71 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 31,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Citizen Voice and Action

Kids' Clubs

Savings Groups

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Yes Youth Can

Community impact in Senegal

We've seen partnerships with churches make great impact for child well-being through our children's clubs. For example, every Wednesday afternoon in the small village of Ndiao Bambaly, children flock to the club.

Jean Paul Kpogomou, National Coordinator of Children's Clubs, said, "In the past, children often did not have the opportunity to express themselves or to flourish. The child needs to be mentored and educated, while at the same time, have fun. Since World Vision set up children's clubs, children are happier." As the community appreciates changes in children's behaviour, the community then also becomes more responsible and involved in initiatives.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/sene/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Church health structures (including a nutritional recovery centre and psychiatric hospital) have partnership agreements with World Vision in every area of intervention. Other religious leaders are engaged in awareness raising through sermons and preaching.



Education

We have memorandums of understanding with the Diocesan Office for Catholic Schools, together with the Catholic orphanage in Kaffrine, John Huffman Protestant school, and the association of Catholic preschools. Church-run literacy centres receive financial support. We support training for Muslim leaders on caring for children in Koranic schools using Child Protection and WASH.



Resilience and Livelihoods

Churches participate through savings groups with women's groups, and through Kids' Clubs.



Child Protection

Churches are engaged in the spiritual nurture of children through Celebrating Families, Kids' Clubs, Sunday schools, Channels of Hope for Child Protection, and Yes Youth Can. Other religious leaders are engaged in Celebrating Families and Channels of Hope for Child Protection, as well as through awareness raising in sermons and preaching.

Prayer request for Senegal

Pray for the children in Senegal, especially the estimated 500,000 street children living without parents to protect and care for them. Pray for children who are working in the mineral companies. Pray for the new six-year national strategy.

INTERFAITH ACTION LEADS TO DRASTIC REDUCTION IN TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

In the 14 villages of Fimela and Tattaguine district, teenage pregnancies had been on the rise in recent years. Parents and communities were at their wits' end in reversing this trend. Fourteen such pregnancies had been reported in one school alone, causing panic in the catchment communities. Jackline Siga Diouf, President of Health Helpers of the Ngohé Ndoffongor area, said, "Whenever a girl became pregnant, a great crisis settled on the parents."



Thankfully, there has been a radical departure from this trend in 2016. Only two cases have been recorded in the college in the same period that recorded 14 pregnancies last year, and this trend is evident in all the communities. This remarkable reduction is traced to the intervention of the Christian-Muslim interfaith group, facilitated by the Enhancing Christian Witness in Senegal (ECWS) project of World Vision. This project initiated faith leaders to chart a new path of involvement in community challenges, as good community gatekeepers should.

Thirty pastors, imams, and priests in the district formed committees to tackle prevailing child well-being issues, including the pressing teenage pregnancy issue. Messages were tailored for boys and girls, parents and teachers. An imam involved in the interfaith intervention said, “This programme is unique. It permits religious leaders from various backgrounds to deliberate on issues together.”

Of the new involvement by faith leaders, Madam Jackline Siga Diouf agreed that “there is a greater parental involvement in terms of finding solutions to this situation. There is also a net realization of life-skills issues among girls since the awareness sessions began.”

This intervention has brought great relief to communities. A teacher said, “Many thanks to the collective of religious leaders and World Vision for relief from the recurring question of early pregnancy. Several changes have been noted in the behaviour of young girls . . . In the past, several girls who had children had altogether stopped their schooling, but all are encouraged to resume their education.” With the involvement of faith leaders and the cooperation of all stakeholders, there is hope that teenage pregnancy has assumed a path of permanent decline in the Tattaguine Fimela area.



Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Sierra Leonean communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Sierra Leone:

- Harmful cultural and religious practices

Sierra Leone snapshot

Population: 7,557,000¹

Religious context: 70% Muslim, 18% Indigenous beliefs, 14% Christian²

World Vision in Sierra Leone³

Partner church networks: 3

Individual church partners: 257

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 5

Church leaders trained: 595 leaders in 256 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 37,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Sierra Leone

Most recently, we've seen significant impact through the church community's engagement in Channels of Hope for Child Protection. We also saw these partnerships make a significant impact during the Ebola response, when the church took an active role in mobilising various communities.

We are strengthening our relationship with the national interfaith group, and we have initiated relationships with faith groups that contributed positively during our recent health emergency.

A Channels of Hope Faith Leaders' Network will ensure that we meet our program outcomes by holding all team members responsible.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/sier/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

The Channels of Hope Faith Leaders' Network is responsible for ensuring that mosques and churches are fully involved in child protection issues. In addition, some churches that have received Channels of Hope for Child Protection training are now involved in workshops and are part of the community child protection structure.



Health

Through Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, some churches are now mobilising their church communities and teaching that when mothers are safe, babies are safe. The Channels of Hope Faith Leaders' Network also exists to promote this work.



Education

The church promotes school enrolment and positive parental responsibilities, which also helps with student retention. The wider faith leaders' network is also collaboratively engaging – to counter religious myths that education is sinful, and to encourage Muslim parents to send their girls to school.

Prayer request for Sierra Leone

The church in Sierra Leone is struggling to be authoritative and relevant, but our work with the church will mean little if this trend does not change. Pray for Sierra Leone's church leadership to have renewed purpose and direction that will promote community change, with World Vision in support of the process.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT SURGES IN BUMPE

With the help of the church and other faith actors, the village of Bumpe was able to achieve significant school enrolment numbers. The church supported our campaign and saw it as a divine mandate, and the community was mobilised and engaged. As a result, the campaign grew and gained the support of the chief authorities.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Somali communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Rwanda:

- Harmful cultural practices (early marriage, female genital mutilation)
- Chronic political instability, corruption and warfare
- Recurrent natural disasters
- Increasing religious extremism (limiting children's opportunities and exposing them to forceful recruitment)

Somalia snapshot

Population: 14,742,000¹

Religious context: 99.7% Muslim²

World Vision in Somalia³

Partner church networks: 2

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Channels of Hope for HIV/AIDS

Citizen Voice and Action

Community impact in Somalia

Somalia has no churches, and the constitution prohibits the practise of any religion except Islam. Christian organisations working in the humanitarian industry face significant suspicion.

In the absence of churches in Somalia, World Vision partners with Muslim religious leaders. In the past we have successfully used Channels of Hope for HIV/AIDS, and recently we used the Citizen Voice and Action model in child protection and livelihood projects, with religious leaders' involvement. Our partnerships with Christian denominations are built around the spiritual nurture of Christian staff based outside of Somalia, in Nairobi, Kenya.

We plan to continue to build relationships of trust and understanding with Muslim leaders – to facilitate a greater capacity on programmatic issues and to ensure sustainable change beyond the life of specific projects.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/soma/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Shelter

Muslim religious leaders are involved in identifying the appropriate types and sizes of shelters, identifying the appropriate beneficiaries, mobilising communities to contribute to the shelters and addressing ownership and inheritance rights.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Muslim religious leaders help to determine those most in need and identify the best locations for facilities. They also, in line with the Islamic hygiene code, mobilise communities for proper hygiene practices, sanitation and environmental management.



Food Security and Livelihoods/Resilience

Again, Muslim religious leaders help to identify the most appropriate interventions and beneficiaries, and they mobilise communities for sustainable environmental management and proper care of animals (work hours, load levels, feed, and rest) as per the Islamic code.

Prayer request for Somalia

A serious drought is happening in the Horn of Africa, with risk of deterioration into a severe famine in Somalia. World Vision is now looking for US\$37M to reach one million in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Pray that God will provide rains, and that people will respond with the resources necessary for Somali communities.

INVESTING IN RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Engaging religious leaders requires time, patience and faith in nurturing relationships towards mutual understanding, community support and partnership. This effective engagement is a key determinant of our interventions' successes, impact, and sustainability.

In Surguduud village of Doolow District, Gedo, Somalia, World Vision implemented a shelter project in which six families each received a two-room house. We involved the religious leaders in all phases of the project, and we attribute the project's success to the deliberate engagement of the religious leaders – particularly through accountability checks, providing guidance and developing solutions to issues in implementation.





The leaders participated in meetings regarding inception of the project, and they were key decision makers concerning the criteria and selection process for beneficiaries. They ensured that available resources would help the most vulnerable, and their transparent and equitable beneficiary selection process prevented conflicts early in the implementation phase. The neediest of the village's 95 households received the help. Whenever misunderstandings occurred during the project, the religious leaders stepped in to facilitate dialogue.

Engaging religious leaders effectively enabled World Vision to prevent potential conflicts among beneficiary families and between the community and the organisation. The religious leaders learned many skills, including construction, and they laud the good working relationship with World Vision staff.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in South African communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in South Africa:

- Harmful cultural and religious attitudes towards children
- Extreme inequality
- An economic gap that makes poverty a permanent reality

South Africa snapshot

Population: 56,717,000¹

Religious context: 73% Christian, 15% Indigenous beliefs, 8% Other²

World Vision in South Africa³

Partner church networks: 18

Individual church partners: 72

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 18

Church leaders trained: 513 leaders in 261 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 34,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in South Africa

World Vision has seen the Channels of Hope programme unite churches for a common purpose, despite their various theological disagreements. The It Takes a World campaign will significantly improve our church engagement.

We have also successfully engaged other religious networks, especially on Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs and on gender issues through Channels of Hope for Gender.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/sout/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

World Vision has engaged churches through the Jesus, Source of Living Water programme.



HIV and AIDS

As a part of our health work, we have been engaging churches in prevention, care and support programmes.



Child Protection

World Vision has engaged churches by creating awareness and building capacity through the Child Protection and Advocacy programme and through Channels of Hope for Gender.

Prayer request for South Africa

Pray that God may help the church to be relevant and focused on the needs of the poor, that they may be true advocates for social justice.

SRI LANKA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Sri Lankan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Sri Lanka snapshot

Population: 20,877,000¹

Religious context: 70% Buddhist, 13% Hindu, 8% Muslim, 7% Christian²

World Vision in Sri Lanka³

Partner church networks: 14

Individual church partners: 210

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 10

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 4,700

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Community impact in Sri Lanka

Faith leaders are encouraged to be engaged in advocacy through the church partnership framework and the interfaith engagement framework. In the future, we plan to conduct Citizen Voice and Action training for faith leaders.

Challenges to child well-being in Sri Lanka:

- Inadequate government policy implementation and interest
- Decrease in funding

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/sril/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Child Protection

Church leaders, lay leaders and Sunday school teachers are mobilised on child protection. We've built the capacity of churches and communities through Celebrating Families.



Education

Churches are engaged in education through Sunday school teacher training, vacation Bible school activities, Bible quizzing and other activities. We developed special educational materials for children with disabilities. We also carry out value formation and personality development activities for non-Christian children.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Churches promote hygiene education, including the use of sign language for people with hearing disabilities.

Prayer request for Sri Lanka

Please pray for the implementation of the Memos of Understanding that has already been signed by churches and faith-based organisations.

MULTIPLYING SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR HYGIENE EDUCATION

We've connected with Deaflink, an arm of the Methodist Church, to promote hygiene education in sign language for people with hearing disabilities. Deaflink seeks to help the deaf and differently-abled to attain equal status with others. The project is producing a video toolkit for the training of trainers of Disabled Persons Organisations. All of the Disabled Persons Organisations in Jaffna, and hopefully beyond, will be trained as trainers in sign language hygiene education. A hand-washing document has already been developed as a printed version, and will also be available in video form. Our training of Disabled Persons Organisations is ongoing.

SWAZILAND

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Swazi communities.

World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Swaziland:

- Various forms of violence and abuse of children, including physical and sexual abuse
- Lack of basic needs including education and clean water
- Lack of Bibles for spiritual nurture

Swaziland snapshot

Population: 1,367,000¹

Religious context: 82% Christian, 14% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Swaziland³

Partner church networks: 14

Individual church partners: 1,162

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 14

Church leaders trained: 802 leaders in 1,160 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 48,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Disaster Management
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Swaziland

We are continuing to establish networks and build relationships with church leaders of different denominations. We have good relationships with several larger church bodies, like the Council of Swaziland Churches, who are passionate about advocacy issues. They have strengths in addressing advocacy policies at a national level. At the local level through Citizen Voice and Action, churches ensure that the government delivers services to the people, especially in education and health.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/swaz/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Church leaders are engaged in Celebrating Families modules, in which they discuss how to implement positive discipline rather than corporal punishment in schools. This helps teachers and parents promote a good learning environment for the children, and helps teachers and parents interpret the Scripture in ways that do not propagate physical violence against children. Channels of Hope for Child Protection has also assisted with this priority.

With other religious leaders, we have engaged in dialogues on issues relevant to education and child well-being. We look at commonalities among the religions that promote and protect children and create a conducive learning environment.



Health

Church leaders have been catalysed through Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, and they are engaged in protecting all children under age five, so that children grow up in healthy families. Pregnant mothers are encouraged to use health facilities available in their communities. Church leaders understand the importance of children having birth certificates, to guard against discrimination and the children being exploited.



Humanitarian Emergency Affairs

Through Disaster Management training, church leaders have helped to reduce the negative impacts disasters have in communities. The church responded to drought challenges by assisting some affected families, although there is still significant opportunity for improvement. Churches and other religious leaders engaged in humanitarian discussions through a Church Forum.

Prayer request for Swaziland

Pray for financial resources for World Vision Swaziland, and for wisdom to implement projects that improve child well-being.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV/AIDS CHANGES ATTITUDES, SAVES LIVES

When Africa first heard about HIV, it was largely reported as an illness that only affected the promiscuous; setting the tone for people's perceptions and responses. Even religious leaders did not want to hear anything about the matter. That didn't change until the Channels of Hope for HIV/AIDS training and others opened their minds to a fuller understanding of the facts and issues.

Pastor Vusi Nhleko of the Word Community Church at Mpolonjeni was one of the many pastors who wanted nothing to do with HIV, but now his mindset has been changed.

He said, "If I had participated in the Channels of Hope training [sooner], my sister wouldn't have died." She had been married for a year when she had a child and her health deteriorated. She died at age 28 from AIDS. Now after Channels of Hope, Pastor Vusi said, "I would have told her that HIV is like any other disease, and it's not demonic or satanic to have it; even well-behaved people can contract the virus." Pastor Vusi explained that he had prayed for his sister because he was convinced that she had a demonic attack that could be cast out by prayer. Now, he says, "I would have led her to HIV testing and counselling."

Pastor Vusi is not the only pastor who was ill-informed about HIV; the majority of pastors at Mpolonjeni shared the same sentiment. But since they have all participated in the Channels of Hope trainings, Pastor Vusi is confident that all Mpolonjeni priests are now well-informed and that their views on the virus have changed. He now openly discusses issues of HIV with his congregants, and this has built trust and good communication between him and his church.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR CHANGES PARENTS

Bongekile Dlamini is in high school and lives with her parents and three younger sisters. Bongekile started attending Bible club in Grade 4 and hasn't missed the club since. At present 34 children (12 boys and 22 girls) aged 12 years and under are participating in the club, and Bongekile reads the verses during their lessons. She is also training children at school.

Bongekile knows many verses by heart and can recite them with ease. Years ago she had said, "One day I will come with my parents to church," and her parents now are indeed coming with her. Her mother told the teacher that the club must really be working; she hadn't planned to start attending church, but Bongekile's behaviour convinced her.

Mrs. Nzalo, Bongekile's instructor, said, "We really thank World Vision for initiating this in our communities, because it changes our children's behaviour and they become responsible children at home and school."



TANZANIA

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Tanzanian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Tanzania:

- Inadequate holistic ministry; addressing the spiritual but not the social, economic, environmental, etc.
- Negative cultural and religious beliefs

Tanzania snapshot

Population: 57,310,000¹

Religious context: 61.4% Christian, 35.2% Muslim²

World Vision in Tanzania³

Partner church networks: 12

Individual church partners: > 2,500

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 22

Church leaders trained: 1,337 leaders in > 2,500 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: >153,500

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope (for HIV/AIDS; Child Protection; Gender; and Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health [MNCH])

Christian Muslim Relations Engagement (CMRE)

Citizen Voice and Action

Empowered Worldview

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Tanzania

We've seen great impact partnering with churches in the Food Security and Natural Resources project. We trained a group of 25, and they conserved and protected a certain area of the forest that was on the verge of extinction. They are now able to reap its benefits sustainably, finding firewood, gathering and selling honey and gathering mushrooms to eat.

For advocacy, we have trained faith leaders via various models, including Channels of Hope, Empowered Worldview and Celebrating Families. Most of our "Training of Trainers" happens among faith leaders (both Muslims and Christians), and they are doing great work in the community, including in their congregations.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/tanz/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Integrated Food and Nutrition Security

Churches engage in this sector first through Channels of Hope training models (for HIV and for MNCH). They help the respective vulnerable groups by forming Channels of Hope Action Teams in their congregations to address the relevant issues. Other religious leaders also collaborate with the training leaders by advocating against harmful beliefs and practices in their communities.



Education

Churches are engaged in creating greater awareness about the impact of all forms of violence against children. They do so using Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope for Child Protection, and Channels of Hope for Gender curricula. Faith leaders also promote children as people with rights and dignity. Through their religious teachings, they inspire adults to stop using violence in disciplining and interacting with children.

We also work within our religious communities to build networks that provide a front line of response to children at risk of abuse and violence and provide a place to which children can go when they are afraid or have been maltreated.

Prayer request for Tanzania

Pray that God will provide wisdom and a way to help others develop models or tools for the spiritual nurture of children in a multi-faith context.

SAVINGS GROUP PROMOTE UNITY AND IMPROVE INCOME

In October 2016, we held a training in Makinga on the formation of faith-based savings groups. The group included both Christian and Muslim faith leaders. Our purpose was to maintain and improve peace, love and harmony between Muslims and Christians, as well as to improve their income for the well-being of their families and children.

At the training, all leaders supported the idea of having faith-based savings groups. They saw these groups as not only increasing their income, but also their unity and love. We now need to increase our capacity to form these groups.

At the training, the leaders also successfully reviewed and approved a Memorandum of Understanding that provides guidance on how both Christian and Muslim leaders will work together harmoniously for sustainable development.



Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Thai communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Thailand:

- Churches' limited understanding of holistic ministry
- Churches' lack of capacity; village churches are small and poor

Thailand snapshot

Population: 69,038,000¹

Religious context: 92% Buddhist, 5% Muslim, 1% Christian²

World Vision in Thailand³

Partner church networks: 23

Individual church partners: 124

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 4

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: nearly 37,700

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope

Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Thailand

Many churches and Christian organisations have different perspectives on interfaith engagement, which can pose a challenge for World Vision as we facilitate interfaith dialogue amongst churches, Christian organisations, and other faith-based organisations. We need to carefully balance and increase relationships/cooperation with churches both at the organisational and programme level.

We have integrated faith-related considerations into our approaches and programmes for Child Protection, Education, and Health & Nutrition. Through the Celebrating Families model, our interactions with parents and caregivers prepare them to create environments that nurture positive values, ethics, conduct, and spiritual growth among children and youth. We also train churches and staff on holistic ministry and on engaging with Buddhists.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/thai/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education and Life Skills

Churches engage in our community action project to support the reading and writing of children ages 7 to 12.



Health and Nutrition

Through Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, faith and community leaders are trained on spiritual perspectives and knowledge to address these issues in their communities. We also engage with Buddhists in the contextualisation of this content.



Child Protection

We are considering the implementation of the Channels of Hope for Child Protection. We have a Church-School-Community Network for Child Protection at Mae Taeng to address and raise awareness about child protection. Three churches are network partners.

Prayer request for Thailand

Pray for the church in Thailand to have a deep relationship with God, to express his love and build relationships with the communities, and for God's Kingdom to be established. Pray for World Vision Thailand staff to have strength and wisdom amidst all the work demands.

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH LIFE AND DEEDS

World Vision Thailand piloted a three-year interfaith engagement project in eastern Thailand from 2013 to 2015. This interfaith engagement initiative was World Vision Thailand's practical response to operate in line with its Christian mission and commitment in a predominantly Buddhist context.

To engage both Buddhists and Christians in development, we began by working with the churches to explain our mission as development within the Buddhist context. It was important to orient Christians to provide the rationale for collaboration with the majority of Buddhists in the community. To build bridges with the Buddhist community, we made efforts to convince the initially isolated village churches in the communities to build relationships with Buddhists.

When we first made contact with the village churches of Fasai and Phai Lom, we noticed that both were made up of small groups of women and the elderly, and they did not have positive relationships with their communities. Despite attempts by church members to improve their historically tense relationships in the community, the situation had not improved.

We first intentionally shared our understanding of Christian mission with the village churches and built a common understanding of Christian missions – before taking the next step of engaging the village Buddhist temples in addressing issues in the community. Through a facilitation process by World Vision, the churches decided to address the neglect of the elderly in the community. While this issue did not directly align with our child-focused approach, the community prioritised and owned this issue; we could see that it had potential for

long-term sustainability. In addition, it offered a good starting point for the Christians to bridge relationships with the Buddhist temples and their communities. We affirmed the church's role as a potential community change agent.

From the project's starting point of well-being for the elderly, churches mobilised not only their members, but also youth groups to conduct home visitations to share their love and concern. At the same time, churches also worked with local Buddhist temples to share about traditional medicinal herbs to relieve physical pains among the elderly. The Fasai Church also mobilised the local government to address health issues faced by the elderly.

After the three-year initiative, the churches experienced both perception and behavioural changes. They came to understand their role as going beyond changing the community's religious beliefs to being community participants who can contribute to improving situations in their communities. The pastor from Phai Lom Church shared, "The engagement of the church in the community is the practical Christian witnessing of the church, where people can understand God's love through the life and deeds of the church members, with their encouragement and care for people in the community."

Beyond the churches' transformation, relationships within the two communities have improved. It's no longer uncomfortable for Christians to enter Buddhist temples and attend Buddhist funerals, and vice versa; Buddhist monks are now comfortable speaking with Christians, and Buddhist parents are now open to sending their children to the churches to learn about ethics, morals, and music. The interfaith engagement initiative also acted as a springboard for Phai Lom Church to start up another community outreach centre in a nearby village, to address addiction of drugs and internet games among youths by introducing healthy activities (for example, English and music classes) and using the centre's premises to conduct lessons for informal education as endorsed by the Thai government.

Through the interfaith engagement initiative, the faith leaders in the communities are now advocates for community development. One Buddhist abbot reported on the interfaith initiatives in his temple, and one of the provincial leaders questioned him about why the temple had to work with a Christian organisation and whether it should be a monk's business. The abbot replied: "Yes! Because I am creating peace in the community."

Similarly, the church leaders from Fasai and Phai Lom were at a provincial church network meeting in which other members discouraged them from working with World Vision. But the leaders from the two churches spoke up: "From our experience, World Vision helped us a lot in building a relationship bridge to the community, and we learnt a lot. Now people walk into our churches and we don't have to use a lot of money to organise events with low impact, we only spend a small amount of money and invest our time with high impact!"

World Vision's interfaith engagement experience involves the reconciliation of churches with their communities, and in turn, community restoration and transformation; this aligns with the Buddhist context in which the organisation works.

TIMOR-LESTE

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Timorese communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Timor-Leste:

- Lack of grant funding

Timor-Leste snapshot¹

Population: 1,171,163

Religious context: 98% Christian, 1.5% Muslim, 0.5% Non-religious/Traditional religion

World Vision in Timor-Leste²

Partner church networks: 44

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 28

Church leaders trained: 50 leaders in 67 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: 263

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Empowered Worldview
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, the church serves as a community gatekeeper and can guarantee a project's life and impact in the communities.

We will continue to increase our commitment to the church leaders' conference, to share and learn from each other on how to work together to contribute to child well-being.

With other faith actors, we also hold monthly prayer gatherings and involve them in the church partnership working group.

¹ <http://www.operationworld.org/country/timo/owtext.html>

² From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health (Nutrition)

The church collaborates with project staff and advocates the importance of mother and child health after Sunday Services.



Education

The church collaborates with this project by leading and organising Sunday school. The church provides venues and volunteers to facilitate the Sunday school activities.

Prayer request for Timor-Leste

Dear God, we thank you for your Holy Spirit, which accompanies us throughout our work. We all have weaknesses and limited capacity, but you are continually helping and strengthening us to work well according to your will. We trust you as our Lord and Saviour. Send your Holy Spirit to continue to guide our work in each step. We pray this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Ugandan communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Uganda:

- Malnutrition
- Violence against children in school; child sacrifice, defilement and child marriage
- Large high school drop-out rate
- Maternal and child mortality

Uganda snapshot

Population: 42,863,000¹

Religious context: 84% Christian, 14% Muslim, 2% Indigenous beliefs²

World Vision in Uganda³

Partner church networks: 8

Individual church partners: 1,154

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 6

Church leaders trained: 2,607 leaders in 1,154 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: >17,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs

Community impact in Uganda

Through our work in Uganda, we help to shift cultural attitudes so children are considered valuable members of the church and society; we help churches inspire social and economic development in addition to spiritual; and we help to train pastors and church leaders to deal with child well-being issues in their communities.

We are formalising partnerships with mainline denominations to strengthen our engagement with the Christian denominations, and we plan to engage the Christian denominations in regular corporate prayer and fundraising for World Vision work. Also, through partnership with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, we hope to conduct joint advocacy campaigns.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/ugan/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Health

Through Congregational HOPE teams, churches disseminate information (both from the pulpit and as individuals) about how to improve the health status of mothers and children. Churches also conduct Community Health Outreaches.

Churches and other religious leaders both advocate to improve services like health care and education through Citizen Voice and Action.



Education

Over 87% of primary and secondary schools in Uganda are founded by faith institutions, most especially the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. Six out of 12 members on School Management Committees are religious leaders. The key role of the SMCs is to monitor school performance and management; the church has also been inspirational in running Early Childhood Development Centres that feed into community primary schools. Only in 2015/16 did the government start picking interest in ECDs. World Vision's main role has trained over 600 SMCs on their roles.



Livelihood and Resilience

Churches are beginning income-generating projects to support orphaned and vulnerable children in their communities. Church leaders are also beginning to advocate for mindset changes from a defeatist attitude towards an empowered one. Through being trained on Channels of Hope and other Community Engagement Models, the church has also been pivotal in peace-building activities in Western Uganda and in the refugee context where they have fostered children who arrive from conflict areas without the company of an adult. In conflict areas, some churches have been identified to be on Refugee Welfare Committees, to identify and respond to child protection related issues.

Prayer request for Uganda

Pray for strong and effective partnerships both at the national and community levels, that we may deliver programs well and increase our abilities to acquire resources. Pray also for creative opportunities to partner with churches and other faith groups. Pray for the church to grow in its response to the refugee crisis in Northern Uganda and for continued resources for our faith and development work which is not always easy to market among donors.

MUSIC TRAINING GIVES STREET CHILDREN A HOME: Ronald Mugamba

Early in life, Ronald lost both his parents. He had nowhere to go, so he ended up on the streets of Busia in Eastern Uganda. He initially sold water to restaurants to get a little money for survival.

In 2011 in response to the problem of homeless children in Busia, World Vision started a children and youth rehabilitation project. Through a partnership between World Vision and a local church, Ronald and three other children were sponsored to train in music.

Ronald was 12 when they began to train. The three went on to train other children as well, and together they formed a band. This band in Busia is now invited to various ceremonies to perform professionally, earning each child a living. The band also helps to advocate for child well-being issues.

The partnership with the church has now rehabilitated 200 children, giving them skills in candle-making, photography, video production, bicycle repair and craft-making.

Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Zambian communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Zambia:

- Early marriages
- Inadequate infrastructure for health and education
- Lack of trained child ministry workers

Zambia snapshot

Population: 17,094,000¹

Religious context: 84% Christian, 12% Indigenous beliefs, 1% Muslim²

World Vision in Zambia³

Partner church networks: 6

Individual church partners: 384

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 6

Church leaders trained: 6,119 leaders in 300 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 165,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families

Channels of Hope for Gender; and for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and Child Protection

Citizen Voice and Action

Empowered Worldview

Farming God's Way

Jesus, Source of Living Water

Kids' Clubs

Vocational Children's Schools

Community impact in Zambia

We've seen the greatest impact thus far in our use of Celebrating Families; Channels of Hope for Gender and for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health; Jesus: Source of Living Water; and Empowered Worldview. We plan to formalise partnerships with churches and parachurch organisations and to engage the government through the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs.

Advocacy work can also improve both health and educational infrastructure, as access to water and sanitation is limited, and the distances to schools and health institutions are significant.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/zamb/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

World Vision engages church leaders and faith actors in advocacy through Citizen Voice and Action.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Education

Churches run Good News programmes in schools, churches and communities, and other religious leaders participate in School Councils (which support quality education standards).



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

To facilitate hygiene and sanitation practices, churches use a biblical approach; other religious leaders also integrate their faiths with the sanitation practices.



Resilience and Livelihoods

Churches engage in improving livelihood strategies through programmes including Empowered Worldview, Celebrating Families, and Channels of Hope for Gender. Other religious leaders also participate through the Farming God's Way programme.

Prayer request for Zambia

Pray for Zambia as we seek to engage the church in ending violence against children.

'MY FAMILY IS NOW MY JOY': Matthew Sakala

I used to follow the traditional authoritarian style of raising children in Namwala; I never let my 13 children or three wives express their opinions, and I treated them all very strictly. But this created distance between us. Two of my sons even preferred to stay away from home rather than talk with me.

But now my children are open with me, and they say that I am their best friend. I treat them and my wives with respect. We now

share ideas and work on family budgets together. I try to be gentle, and I feel more appreciated and respected than I did when I treated them strictly. My first wife, Jennipher, says that my transformation is a miracle. I have totally changed thanks to the Celebrating Families training.

I didn't want to just keep this new learning to myself – so I also shared the lessons with church members. People are coming to me for marriage counselling, and we have a group of four trainers to help disseminate the information.

My family is now my joy.



Faith leaders are respected and influential citizens in Zimbabwean communities. World Vision works with these leaders, their congregations, and denominations to help them lead change in their communities.



Challenges to child well-being in Zimbabwe:

- Increasing school drop-outs due to economic hardship
- Harmful cultural, religious, and social practices and perceptions (particularly against girls)
- Child marriages, teen pregnancies, sexual abuse

Zimbabwe snapshot

Population: 16,530,000¹

Religious context: 71% Christian, 26% Indigenous beliefs, 3% Other²

World Vision in Zimbabwe³

Partner church networks: 7

Individual church partners: 74

Christian faith-based organisation partners: 7

Church leaders trained: 638 leaders in 204 churches

Children who participated in spiritual nurture activities: > 80,000

World Vision Faith programme models used:

Celebrating Families
Channels of Hope
Citizen Voice and Action
Kids' Clubs/VBS camps

Community impact in Zimbabwe

We've seen partnerships with churches make the greatest impact for child well-being in the dissemination of correct Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and HIV prevention messages in congregations. This has resulted in behaviour changes in community members, reducing the risk of illnesses, infant mortality, morbidity and malnutrition.

Churches have also successfully mobilised to hold Vacation Bible School camps, and have established Child Prayer Bands in the communities. These are spaces created for children to meet once a week to pray, play and learn. There are 405 Child Prayer Bands run by local churches in various communities.

Churches continue to advocate for the observation of child rights, equality for both boys and girls, and curbing discrimination of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

¹ United Nations, World Statistics Pocketbook, 2017

² <http://www.operationworld.org/country/zimb/owtext.html>

³ From FY14 -16 ACCA Field & Support Office Quantitative Data; all data from FY16

Leaders are trained on World Vision models of engagement and Congregational Hope Action Teams to bring people together to discuss various issues affecting children and their communities.

Partnering with Faith Communities in Our Work

World Vision works with families, communities, and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, and are cared for and protected. Our priorities are:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Because hygiene is critical in open-air churches, training of leadership on the importance of hygiene and disease prevention is of paramount importance. Leaders are encouraged to promote the construction of low-cost latrines among households. Churches are also trained using the Jesus, Source of Living Water model. Other religious leaders are mandated to engage with church leadership in various wards or villages. They assist World Vision in mobilisation and information dissemination. They are responsible for coming up with community-based policies that carry the hygiene message and discourage open defecation.



Livelihoods and Resilience

Churches promote peace-building amongst project members, to encourage unity and oneness in purpose towards the fulfilment of project outcomes. They are also useful in conflict management and resolution. Other religious leaders will be trained in Empowering Worldview, to help communities change their mindsets to embrace transformation.



Education and Life Skills

Improving Girls' Access through Transforming Education (IGATE) engages churches on the importance of girl child education and well-being through training on Channels of Hope for Gender. More than 1,700 leaders have gone through training, benefitting about 17,000 children.



Sponsorship

Churches are engaged in children's spiritual nurture activities through prayer bands, developing of devotional guides and facilitating Vacation Bible school for children across the area.

Prayer request for Zimbabwe

Pray for better harvests so that households will have enough food. Pray that this will enable the development work to succeed in the communities, since El Niño aggravates food insecurity.