

# **EDUCATING** CHILDREN *for life*



CORE MODELS AND APPROACHES

World Vision’s aspiration for all girls and boys is that they are “**educated for life.**” This requires that children attain the core cognitive, emotional, social and essential life skills they need in order to reach their full potential to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

World Vision’s education work extends to more than 60 countries, reaching more than 8 million children with age-appropriate services and programmes.

Our experience has shown us that families, schools, communities and the public and private sectors must work together to help children develop these skills in and out of school, from early childhood through adolescence. World Vision’s approach and core project models:

- Assist parents and caregivers to support children from **birth through adolescence**;
- Encourage **Early Childhood Development (ECD)** and school readiness;
- Build **reading, writing and math skills** in primary school age children; and
- Develop **technical and life skills** for adolescents.



WORLD VISION'S **TWO** EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ An increase in the number of children who can read
- ✓ An increase in adolescents' education and life skills

## BACKGROUND

World Vision has provided significant investment enabling millions of children to have greater opportunities to attend school, through thousands of community development programmes across dozens of countries. Until recently, much of that went to helping communities build schools, helping parents afford required uniforms and fees, and providing school supplies.

However, an analysis in 2012 showed that children weren't necessarily learning while they attended school. We now know more than **265 million children** in low- to middle-income countries **cannot read, write or do basic math** even though half of those had attended school for at least four years.<sup>1</sup>

**OUR RESPONSE:** to transform World Vision’s programming for improving childhood education. Since 2012, World Vision has piloted new methods to **improve education** outcomes for children through education projects in 25 countries. **THE RESULT:** a shift of **focus toward being able to learn**, rather than just school attendance.

To achieve the overall aim of improving learning outcomes with equitable access for the most vulnerable children, our approach addresses multiple barriers to children’s full participation in learning.

<sup>1</sup> Education for All Global Monitoring Report (UNESCO 2014).

Our work aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) and its targets to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”



# A LIFE-CYCLE APPROACH

Our “Educated for Life” approach is at the heart of World Vision’s education strategy. It engages and supports parents, families and communities to foster environments for learning at all ages so children can thrive.

Our **Early Childhood Development (ECD)** programming spans from pregnancy to six years to ensure children form a strong foundation for early learning and literacy in secure and stimulating environments.



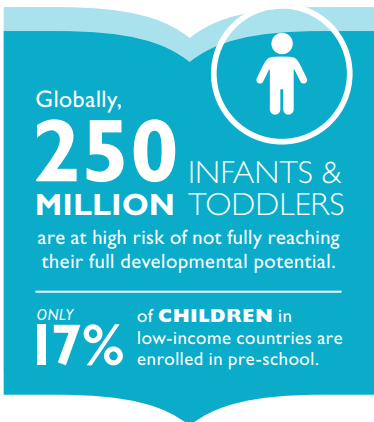
## Go Baby Go!

Go Baby Go! targets the **first 1,000 days of life** (conception through age 3), a crucial period of rapid brain growth. It supports parents as first teachers of their infants with **individualised home-based support** through visits to vulnerable households, and with **group, skills-based** sessions focused on enhancing nurturing care through:

- Sensitive and responsive parenting
- Well-being as a family affair (including fathers)
- Holistic child development
- Play and communication

## Learning Roots

Learning Roots focuses on the early developmental needs of children (ages 3-6) so they can successfully **transition to primary school**. It engages parents to support **early reading and numeracy skills**; strengthens systems by working with national policies; fosters community links with the formal sector; and works to strengthen local ECD centres by **training teachers** and creating safe, stimulating learning environments.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)



### BARRIERS

A child’s vocabulary size is affected by their parents’ education and income levels. Pre-school education is underfunded (receiving only 1.15% of total education aid in 2014).



### SOLUTIONS

World Vision empowers parents to support their baby’s development through 10+ experiential learning sessions, home visits, and supportive networks. Our cost-effective pre-school model is helping 3-6 year-olds successfully transition to primary school.

Approximately

**37**

**MILLION**

AGE CHILDREN are out of school in crisis affected countries.

PRIMARY  
& LOWER  
SECONDARY

This represents **30%** of those out of school globally across these age groups.



## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES



### BARRIERS

Children affected by long-term conflict are increasingly out of school for prolonged periods, and the longer they are out of school, the less likely they are to return.



### SOLUTION

World Vision is delivering quality, high impact education, child protection and youth-focused programmes in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria reaching nearly 45,000 children through the No Lost Generation Initiative (NLG) with UNICEF.

Our child-friendly and temporary learning space model is adapted to meet the protection and learning needs of affected children across a broad range of emergency contexts, including rapid to long-term crises.

At **primary school** (ages 6-11), attaining the basic skills of literacy and numeracy is the main focus, with a goal of increasing the number of children who read with comprehension.

### Unlock Literacy

Our literacy work helps unlock learning potential by developing and improving children's reading skills. We train teachers to incorporate the five core reading skills into their curricula. We also support parents to help their children learn to read outside of school through fun activities and local-language reading materials.

**250**

**MILLION**

CHILDREN either don't make it to grade 4 or **LACK THE BASIC SKILLS** in reading, writing and math by the time they reach grade 4.

**30 MILLION** of these CHILDREN are in school and not learning.



## BASIC EDUCATION



### BARRIERS

The majority of children in Africa have never owned a book of their own. In 2013, across one-third of all countries, less than 75% of teachers were trained according to national standards.



### SOLUTION

World Vision's literacy programme reaches over 1.7 million children. World Vision has trained 83,000 teachers, established 6,000 reading camps, and produced 4 million books to help children improve their learning skills.



World Vision is also preparing **adolescents** (ages 11-18) for work and a productive adulthood by helping them develop technical and applied life skills. Key programmes include:

### Safe and Nurturing Schools

Schools should be a place where all children feel safe. World Vision works with partners to create a positive school environment **free from violence** in all its forms—such as physical punishment, bullying and sexual violence. We collaborate with stakeholders to develop **codes of conduct** for appropriate teacher and student behaviour. Ensuring adequate and safe **water, sanitation and hygiene** facilities is essential for safe school environments.

### Girl Vision

World Vision prepares adolescent girls to successfully transition to and complete secondary school by addressing the **key barriers to girls attending and staying in school**. This involves changing attitudes, engaging the girl herself, working across multiple sectors, and working at the family, community, school and government levels.

Globally,  
**246**  
**MILLION**  
**GIRLS**  
**& BOYS**  
experience  
school-related  
violence every  
year.



CHILD MARRIAGE  
AFFECTS UP TO  
**41,000**  
GIRLS UNDER  
THE AGE OF **18**  
worldwide today,  
often ending their  
formal education.

### ADOLESCENTS



#### BARRIERS

Unsafe learning environments and harmful practices deprive many children of the opportunity to flourish as learners—especially girls.



#### SOLUTIONS

World Vision trains children and their communities to respond to and prevent school-related gender-based violence. This happens by creating policies, improving teacher training, and helping young people to be involved in decision-making. We also help adolescent girls attend and finish secondary school by addressing issues that could stop them from being able to learn.

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.  
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.



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**World Vision** 

Established in 1950, World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Our more than 45,000 staff members in nearly 100 countries serve millions of the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.