


PARTNERSHIP POLICY		REVISIONS HISTORY: EC/95/68 BD/02/16 BD/13/16	
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TITLE	Advocacy for Justice Policy		
PURPOSE	Advocacy is a core ministry and competency of World Vision. This policy articulates the key principles that govern and guide the World Vision approach to child-focused advocacy. In line with its Core Values, Vision and Mission, and <i>Our Promise 2030</i> , this policy strives to enable and encourage bold, courageous and effective advocacy for the rights and well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised.		
POLICY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GOAL: Advocacy seeks to constructively engage with and affect governmental and multilateral policies and practices, as well as societal norms, beliefs and behaviours that impede justice and well-being for children and families. Positively, it urges the implementation of policies and other actions that promote justice and well-being, and that respond to the urgent needs of children and families. 2. FOCUS: Children, and especially the most vulnerable, are at the heart of World Vision’s Mission, Vision and Strategy. All World Vision advocacy is focused on justice, protection, survival and the fulfillment of rights for girls and boys. 3. GROUNDING: All humanity is created in the image of God and every person has inherent value, dignity and rights. World Vision advocacy is grounded in the biblical imperative to seek justice, especially for the most vulnerable. (See Micah 6:8, Amos 5:24, Luke 4:18-19, <i>inter alia</i>.) World Vision advocacy is also rooted in prayer, calling on God for guidance, as well as mercy and wholeness for all. Consistent with its grounding in Christian teaching, World Vision advocacy for children is rights-based, as articulated in global agreements we have affirmed, most importantly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including its optional protocols, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 4. HOW WORLD VISION ADVOCATES: World Vision will focus not on <i>whether</i> it should advocate—this is expected—rather on <i>how</i> it will advocate. World Vision accepts that seeking to achieve its Vision, Mission and Strategy, including through advocacy, carries inherent political implications and that silence concerning injustice can itself be a statement or acquiescence. As such, World Vision will employ advocacy to address injustice that impacts children in the most appropriate and effective manner, holding itself accountable for the consequences (positive and negative) on all aspects of 		

its work, its staff and partners, and especially on children.

At the local level, World Vision seeks to empower people—especially children—to become agents of change, engaging in constructive dialogue and other forms of advocacy to represent themselves with government officials and other influential actors. World Vision staff also advocate at national, regional and global levels with and on behalf of children, witnessing to what they have seen and heard from contexts where children face injustice. Further, World Vision calls on its supporters to engage in various forms of child focused advocacy.

World Vision advocacy promotes evidence-based solutions to systemic injustice against children, drawn from programmatic experience, research and from the direct input and participation of children. World Vision advocacy is deeply relational—it supports the transformation of relationships between and among citizens, governments at all levels, service providers and other actors so that everyone in the community is working towards the well-being of children. Its advocacy does not seek to shame political and/or other leaders, but is willing to speak truth to power when appropriate. World Vision is never politically partisan.

CAMPAIGNS: World Vision undertakes and joins advocacy campaigns when it identifies an injustice affecting children that seems so urgent and insurmountable that using ordinary advocacy tactics will not achieve the needed change. This requires an intensification and focus of every tool at its disposal for a sustained but defined period, increased resource allocation and the mobilisation of supporters and other partners to address the injustice at local, national, regional and global levels.

PARTNERSHIPS: Advocacy is often more effective when done in partnership with peer agencies, faith bodies, civil society, business and in multi-stakeholder coalitions and networks. Partnerships with churches and Christian networks are central to World Vision's mission, and indispensable to its advocacy for justice. Partners can also be targets of our advocacy and vice versa.

5. **CONTEXTS FOR ADVOCACY:** World Vision's arena for advocacy spans from the local to the global, including in communities where World Vision operates, and is directed at governments, regional and global institutions, citizens, as well as at actors in other sectors, such as churches and other faith bodies, business and civil society.

Advocacy undertaken by World Vision will relate directly to injustice children are experiencing in contexts where it operates and on themes where it has significant experience and/or expertise. Guided by agreed Partnership protocols, on rare occasions World Vision will advocate regarding situations of major injustice against children in contexts where it does not operate, or on child-focused themes where it is not a recognised expert.

6. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVOCACY:** Whilst the WVI Advocacy team has primary responsibility for fostering Partnership-wide alignment with advocacy policies and positions, and for establishing protocols, standards and guidelines that may from time to time be necessary to promote this alignment, every World Vision entity, ministry

	<p>and sector team is expected to engage in child-focused advocacy.</p> <p>In line with agreed Partnership policy positions, each World Vision entity is responsible for advocacy concerning its own country, government and other national/local actors. Regional offices are responsible for their respective regional bodies and institutions, and the Global Centre is responsible for global multilateral institutions and inter-governmental forums.</p> <p>Any advocacy or public messaging proposed by one World Vision entity directed at the policies of the government of another entity are only undertaken with the agreement of that entity. In the spirit of dual citizenship, each entity must consider implications beyond its borders of the advocacy it is undertaking.</p> <p>7. FURTHER MANAGEMENT ACTION: WVI Management is authorised to issue further management policies and standards which implement this Policy, including clarifying decision rights and updating existing management guidelines.</p>
SCOPE	<p>This Partnership policy applies to the entire World Vision Partnership, including all Vision Fund/microfinance entities. It supersedes and replaces the Promotion of Justice Partnership Policy which was approved by the WV International Board in 2002.</p>