


PARTNERSHIP POLICY		DOCUMENT NUMBER: EC/95/68	
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TITLE:	Transformational Development
PURPOSE:	<p>Poverty is a surmountable condition of deprivation, vulnerability and broken relationships, which threatens human survival, involves unacceptable human suffering and prevents people from fulfilling their God-given potential. Transformational Development is how World Vision responds to poverty and vulnerability as we follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.</p> <p>Transformational Development is both a vision and a process. The vision is “life in all its fullness” for every child; girls and boys, families, communities and societies living abundant lives characterised by dignity, justice, peace, and hope. The process is a transformational journey of shared learning and holistic change, through which people discover God’s love and purposes for them as they work with others to address injustices and improve and sustain child well-being.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish the core principles of Transformational Development that inform all World Vision’s work across all entities and in all contexts. The principles of Transformational Development are applicable to other ministry policies and provide the framework that brings all areas of work together into a coherent whole, focused on the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable.</p>
POLICY:	<p>The pursuit of Transformational Development requires all World Vision entities and programmes to:</p> <p>I. Recognise God is already at work in the process of human and social transformation:</p> <p>a. God is at work in the world to reconcile all people and the whole of nature to Himself. World Vision recognises that God’s work is displayed wherever people show compassion to those who suffer, relationships are reconciled and people are enabled to live with dignity, justice, peace and hope. World Vision staff take the time to understand what God is already doing, and to join with God’s work through life, deed, word and sign, seeking to be good stewards of God’s creation and the resources with which we are entrusted.</p>

- b. **Prayer and discernment** are vital to the success of Transformational Development. Acknowledging God as the author of transformation, World Vision teams actively engage in prayer and discernment to understand how God has been working, and to seek direction and strength from God for strategy, planning and implementation.

The goal of Transformational Development is “life in all its fullness”; **the holistic well-being** of girls and boys within thriving families, communities and societies.

Transformational Development requires that the spiritual as well as the material, social and political root causes of child vulnerability are understood and addressed. Spiritual nurture is integral to our holistic approach of human development. We respond to God’s profound love for children through our relationships and actions, with the desire that children in any context might experience fullness of life.

- c. **Restored identities and relationships** are central to the pursuit of ‘life in all its fullness’. Broken relationships and a marred human identity are at the root of poverty and injustice. Restored identity and relationships, centred on God’s love, bring hope and can transform individual lives and entire nations. We recognise that it is impossible to achieve sustained well-being of children without addressing the gender inequalities that are the source of injustice and poverty. Through Transformational Development, girls and boys of all backgrounds, ethnicities, beliefs and abilities are valued, listened to, included and nurtured within peaceful, reconciled and gender equal families, communities and societies.

2. **Empower children, their families and communities to plan and control their own journey of transformation:**

- a. **Transformational Development is the responsibility of the people themselves.** World Vision’s role is to empower girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable, with their families and communities, to envision, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate their own development processes in partnerships with local governments, businesses, and civil society. World Vision is committed to facilitating community engagement that promotes the dignity and full participation of females and males as equal in the sight of God.
- b. **Families are the primary social units and the basis of civil society.** Our work supports families to strengthen their resilience and improve livelihoods, enabling them to provide and care for children. World Vision programs promote transformed lifestyles and relationships between women, men, girls, and boys that enable children’s well-being and prevent violence and discrimination.
- c. **Children play a key role as agents of transformation.** World Vision will build children’s ability to participate, taking into account their age, maturity and context. We uphold children’s rights to be listened to; to express their opinions on matters that affect them; and to freedom of expression, thought, association and access to information, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of parents and others in authority.
- d. **World Vision’s contribution to a community’s journey of transformation will always be limited and time-bound.** Throughout World Vision’s involvement, there will be a continuous focus on developing local leadership, seeking to strengthen communities’ resilience and capacities to maintain and build on gains in child well-being and sustainable development after World Vision’s contribution has ended.

3. Identify, include and benefit the Most Vulnerable Children within each specific context:

- a. The most vulnerable children are those most affected by extreme deprivation, serious rights violations, abusive or exploitative relationships, disabilities, and vulnerability to disaster. World Vision embraces the challenge of **prioritising, including and empowering** the most marginalised and deprived girls and boys and their families.
- b. World Vision will go to where they are, listen carefully and work respectfully with them to understand and address the **root causes of their vulnerability** and build their capabilities, decrease their vulnerabilities and enable their equitable access to services. Staff will work to enable vulnerable people to be treated with dignity, not pre-judged or portrayed as victims, incompetent, or in need of medical care.
- c. **Child Protection** prevents and responds to exploitation, neglect, abuse, and other forms of violence affecting children. World Vision upholds children's rights to protection from all forms of abuse and violence, especially gender-based violence, and all practices that undermine the dignity of girls, boys, women and men and their right to protection from physical, sexual and psychological harm.
- d. World Vision expects that working with the most vulnerable girls and boys and their families will **lead to mutual transformation**, where attitudes and beliefs about the spiritual, social and political nature of vulnerability are challenged and changed. The values, beliefs and practices of World Vision staff are challenged and changed, just as those of community members, leaders, partners, governments and supporters are.

4. Recognise that the causes of child vulnerability are complex and require humility, adaptability and active mutual learning, rooted in ongoing relationships:

- a. The complex nature of child vulnerability requires that Transformational Development **processes are flexible**; that design and implementation are merged through rapid cycles of learning and adaptation; and that there is a real focus on achieving results.
- b. World Vision's approach to Transformational Development requires programme staff to be **rooted in positive relationships** with girls and boys, their families and duty bearers and committed to mutual learning together. These relationships are characterised by a humility that recognises there is always more to learn; curiosity at how change happens within a context; and accountability to those we serve. Through this listening and learning attitude, new approaches and innovations are sought, identified, tested and shared.
- c. **World Vision's technical interventions** contribute to a locally owned vision of child well-being. They are jointly identified and designed with stakeholders in each context and build on local government and civil society capabilities. Technical interventions meet internationally accepted sector-specific standards and guidelines, which are carefully adapted to local contexts through a process of iterative learning, ensuring they have an impact on the root causes of child vulnerability and lead to the progressive fulfilment of children's rights at each stage of their lifecycle.
- d. Because global issues and systems affect poverty, World Vision maximises its influence on international organisations, and seeks to **engage donors and supporters deeply** in their own transformation, and to increase their prayer and actions on behalf of vulnerable children. Organisations from all sectors of society – business, civil society and government – are already active in improving child well-being. Transformational Development requires identifying and collaborating with a range of existing

organisations including those of different faiths or ideologies, celebrating our shared values of justice, love and hope. We embrace the risk and rewards of partnering with those who are different to ourselves.

5. In working with partners, World Vision’s preferred role is as catalyst and convenor, connecting stakeholders to better impact key child well-being issues and efforts.

- a. **A nurturing family, community and society is required for children to thrive.** We recognise, respect and strengthen others’ legitimate roles in upholding the rights of children and contributing to their sustained well-being. This includes empowering children, families, communities, civil society organisations, government and the private sector to work in partnership on projects that support child well-being.
- b. World Vision promotes **relationships with and between partners** that are transformational, by living out the principles of mutual benefit, transparency and equity.
- c. World Vision believes that the Church is God’s primary instrument to transform lives and address the spiritual causes of poverty and injustice. For this reason, **local churches, where they exist, are indispensable partners** in the work of Transformational Development. World Vision works in ways that strengthen and enhance the local church’s engagement in and capacity for ministry with vulnerable children.

6. Recognise that God desires the transformation of systems and structures so they work for equity, justice and the well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable:

- a. World Vision works with and strengthens **governance systems, policies and structures** at all levels, helping to make them more transparent, accountable and effective in delivering on the rights of their citizens.
- b. **Citizens, communities and civil society organisations are equipped and enabled** to engage in collaborative, constructive dialogue with national and local government officials and service providers to hold them accountable for upholding children’s rights and the provision of quality services against existing plans and policies.
- c. World Vision seeks to enable **donors’ and supporters’ own transformation** as they participate with communities to improve the lives of their children. Opportunities are provided for donors and supporters to engage deeply and to increase their prayer and actions on behalf of vulnerable children.

7. The WVI President or his/her designee may develop further detailed management policies to implement this policy.

- a. Such management policies are also authorised to revoke the Partnership Policy on Programming Effectiveness in Long-Term Local Programming (BD/09/57), after having incorporated relevant provisions as deemed appropriate.

Definitions

Children’s well-being refers to positive relationships, healthy individual development (involving physical and psycho-social health, cognitive, social and spiritual dimensions), and contexts where all children experience safety, social justice, and participation in civil society. World Vision’s vision of “life in all its fullness” for every child is articulated through our four child well-being aspirations: that each girl and boy enjoys good health; is educated for life;

	<p>experiences the love of God and their neighbours; and is cared for, protected, and participating.</p> <p>The most vulnerable children are those most affected by extreme deprivation, serious rights violations, abusive or exploitative relationships, disabilities, and vulnerability to disaster. The more vulnerability factors children experience, or the longer they experience any one of these factors, the more vulnerable they become.</p> <p>The Church is the global body of Christ-followers. (WV Faith and Development Guiding Frame, 2017)</p> <p>Holistic means positive change in the whole of human life: materially, socially, psychologically and spiritually. (Myers, 2011)</p>
SCOPE:	<p>This Partnership Policy applies to all World Vision entities, including VisionFund and World Vision microfinance entities. It is relevant to all operational contexts.</p> <p>This policy supersedes the Transformational Development Policy (BD/02/65) approved by the World Vision International Board in 2002.</p>