

Valle de Sula, Honduras

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

Focused global contribution and policy change at all levels through interventions and outcomes influencing policy and government plans, the initiative contributed to SDGs 1: No Poverty, 3: Good Health and Well-Being, 4: Clean Water and Sanitation, 8: Decent work and economic growth, 10: Reduced Inequalities, 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and 17: Partnership for the Goals.

Urban Governance through enhanced urban residents' empowerment, capacity building and participation in various platforms and with stakeholders to collaborate and implement initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of children; improved social cohesion in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods (prioritised by their violence indicators and their poverty conditions); and local actors developing actions to improve the protection of children through social cohesion.

Creation of safe, resilient and prosperous environments through the creation of peace clubs, alternative education programmes for youth and emergency exit roads for disaster prevention among others, leading to children, youth and their families building resilience in order to achieve their life goals; young people and their families developing behaviours to adapt to and overcome adverse economic situations; and families enjoying favourable development conditions through the investment of key actors in Valle de Sula.



In this economic hub, thousands of inhabitants in marginalised neighbourhoods are affected by poverty, inequality and violence. In areas controlled by gangs, children and youth are exposed to homicide, organised crime, extortion and drug trafficking.

KEY IMPACTS

70,000

children living in fragile neighbourhoods impacted by the programme

6,000

youth living in fragile neighbourhoods impacted by the programme

4,900

children impacted by child protection actions implemented by local actors

25

peace clubs created for children and youth

HOW IT HAPPENED

In 2016, World Vision started the work in Valle de Sula identifying partners, and other key actors, and defining roles and contributions. This process led to the formation and revitalisation of spaces for dialogue and coordination with public, private and civil society alike. The programme in Valle de Sula incorporated three components of World Vision's Citywide Self-Sustaining Model.

Take 5 minutes to learn about the Citywide Self-Sustaining Model. 

URBAN PROGRAMME APPROACH

This approach aimed to transform the lives of the most vulnerable girls, boys and youth in these fragile and violent urban contexts through the engagement of local and municipal actors, direct interventions in neighbourhoods, advocacy at the municipal level, evidence-based impact and partnering with key stakeholders in violence prevention and promotion of well-being for the most vulnerable children and youth.

The programmes in Valle de Sula impacted the lives of nearly 90,000 people living in the most conflicted communities through: child protection interventions (peace clubs, social accountability, positive parenting, emergency exit roads); education improvement (literacy boost, alternative education programmes for youth, strengthening teachers' skills); youth employability (life skills); forced displacement prevention; and empowerment of women and local neighbourhood leaders.



RESOURCING: BLENDING NON-SPONSORSHIP FUNDING AND GRANTS

The urban initiative started with an innovation fund in one neighbourhood and with one technical staff person, and leveraged that to access funds from a number of World Vision supporting offices, major donors and international grants. In addition, there was a strategy to increase funding from local businesses and corporations based in Valle de Sula. It required a different mindset and new capabilities from World Vision staff, including creating interventions that both appealed to private donors' priorities while connecting those with the needs in vulnerable communities. And it required more flexible and adaptable administrative and operating processes, capable of reporting tangible results in a short time without losing sustainability and long-term development vision.

OPERATIONS: FLEXIBLE NON-SPONSORSHIP-BASED MODEL

Starting the initiative with non-sponsorship, private funding allowed for more flexibility. World Vision worked with churches, private companies, academia and municipalities to leverage human resources and increase the coverage of life skills interventions with youth and women. World Vision played these roles for citywide, sustainable impact:

Implementers and partners: establishing, maintaining and expanding trust with community members (children, youth and families), community-based organisations, local churches and governments. This provided access to inhospitable areas and opened community members and local partners to collaborations with World Vision.

Advocates and influencers: staff actively participated as members in high-level dialogue and alliances. These included the Strategic Advisor Group for the International Agencies for Child Protection Group, the board of directors of relevant national alliances, and the municipal Child Protection Council. They influenced public policies including the Policy of Childhood and Adolescents, and the Law for the Prevention and Protection of People Displaced by Violence. And they supported local government plans.

Staff across all programmes worked together to share resources and connections with stakeholders for efficiency and greater impact. The emotional well-being and security of staff was an important issue to address in this urban intervention. The programme took this into consideration, implementing some strategic actions that included working closely with local partners, staff-care interventions, a tailored corporate security plan and flexible work schedules.