



CHILD PROTECTION MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

IMPLEMENTATION CASE STUDY

Learning from World Vision Cambodia, Nepal, and Burundi



World Vision's Child Protection Minimum Requirements (CPMR) is a core set of community-led child protection interventions that serves as a starting point for establishing and strengthening a protective environment for children in every Sponsorship-funded community where we work.

Beginning in 2020, all World Vision Area Programmes (APs) with child sponsorship across the world began rolling out the CPMR package. Within the first full year of CPMR implementation in 2021, 200 staff members representing each of our 51 field offices had been trained in CPMRs, passing on their training to local staff and community members serving as field facilitators. This work has impacted registered children around the world, as well as all the children and families within World Vision's programme areas.

For all APs with Sponsorship, the CPMR package includes:

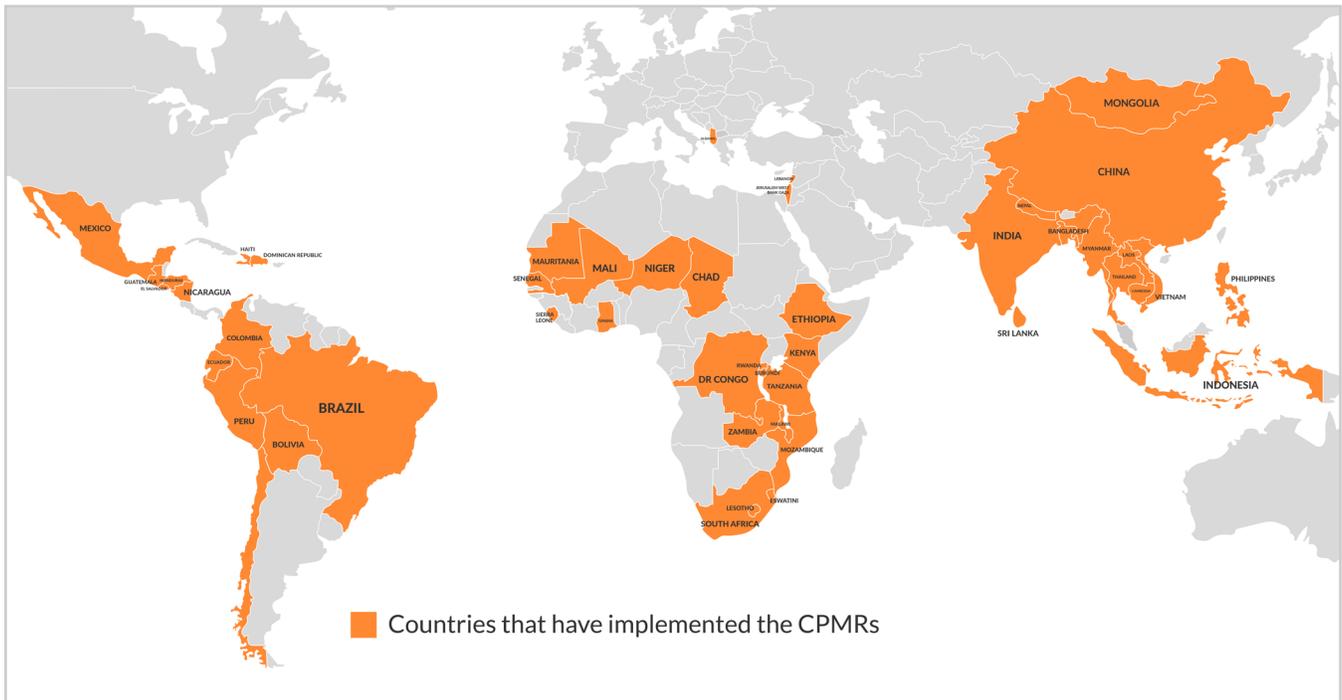
CPMR 1: Conducting a **local level context analysis** to understand and address the community child protection issues and their root causes

CPMR 2: Strengthening **reporting and referral mechanisms** that enables children, caregivers and others to report violations and receive help in addressing them

CPMR 3: All **adolescent RCs** (aged 12 to 18) are directly participating in interventions that directly strengthen their well-being. Interventions that strengthen life skills and protective skills are prioritised

Child Protection Minimum Requirements do not replace a full Child Protection technical programme designed to reduce violence against children. Rather, CPMRs begin to strengthen the community-led protective environment for girls and boys.

The CPMRs move World Vision closer towards achieving our global goal of increasing the scope and quality of child protection efforts everywhere we work by laying a foundation of capacitated local Child Protection (CP) partner groups, functional reporting and referral mechanisms and adolescents better equipped with life and protective skills.



FY22 — Global impact at a glance:

- **88%** of the 51 World Vision offices trained in CPMRs have supported the roll out a locally-led implementation.
- Globally, **83%** of community-based child protection groups across 24 World Vision field offices have implemented the local action plans they developed.
- **86%** of established reporting and referral mechanisms met the minimum standards.
- **77%** of known child protection cases in 22 FOs were followed up by community child protection committees.
- **75%** of Field Offices (42 FOs) reported implementing adolescent interventions for CPMR 3.

“Implementing the CPMRs across all of our Sponsorship-funded Area Programmes represents the largest global undertaking of a rollout of this type of community-driven, locally-led child protection work,” said Bill Forbes, World Vision International Global Child Protection and Participation Sector Lead. “More importantly this endeavour is making a tremendous difference in the lives of children around the world, and their families and local partners who support them.”

CPMR 1: LOCAL LEVEL CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Spotlight on Cambodia: *Community Ownership for Child Protection*

In **CPMR 1**, formal and informal child protection actors work together to form a local child protection partner group then conduct a Local Level Context Analysis (LCA) to better understand community child protection priorities and their root causes. After prioritizing identified CP issues, the group develops and implements a local action plan.

Beginning in 2021, World Vision Cambodia catalysed local child protection actors in 95 communes (out of 176 communes across Area Programmes (AP) in which World Vision Cambodia operates) to form local CP partner groups.¹ With guidance from World Vision Cambodia and the locally trained community field facilitators, each CP partner group conducted a Local-level Context Analysis (LCA) and identified the top five child protection issues in their community they wanted to address alongside their root causes and a proposed action plan.

The issues found from the LCA varied from one commune to another, with some similar child protection issues identified across multiple Cambodia APs, including: violence against children in the home, drug and alcohol addiction of children and/or parents, sexual abuse, early marriage and children dropping out of school for income earning.

These priority issues were addressed in an action plan created and implemented by the local formal and informal child protection actors of the CP partner group working together. Actions included awareness raising initiatives, international day events (including International Children's Day and Child's Labour Day) and actions to promote and strengthen reporting and referral of incidents. To promote financial sustainability, the activities of the action plans were integrated into each Commune Investment Plan (CIP) — a workplan that prioritises commune development including social services.

Throughout action planning and the ongoing implementation process, each local CP partner group in Cambodia works in alignment with their local Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC) — an advisory body to the Commune Council tasked to focus on the concerns of women and children in the community. As part of the action planning, both the local community and CCWC completed a scorecard to review the performance

¹ In the Cambodia context, the local child protection partner groups are referred to as CP&A groups. implements a local action plan.

IMPACT

- **95 communes and Sangkat in 10 provinces and Phnom Penh** city have rolled out CPMR 1 (local level context analysis) and CPMR2 (strengthening reporting & referral mechanism) as a minimum package.
- **1,300+ individuals participated** in developing action plans to respond to the child protection issues and root causes identified.
- **76% of the actions from local CP action plans were implemented** by the end of 2021, with the financial support of the relevant Commune Councils through integrating the action plan into Commune Investment Planning (CIP).
- Parents, children and local CP partner group representatives reported in focus groups that action plan implementation to date has both reduced domestic violence as a result of community-led awareness raising and support including counseling; and decreased rates of school dropouts as a result of awareness raising on child labour.

of the CCWC in their commune. These scorecard results helped the local CP partner group determine how the CCWC could improve in their role in supporting children and to identify ways they may work together to improve the local services as part of the action plan.

To date, the local CP partner groups in Cambodia, established as a result of the CPMR 1 rollout, have demonstrated support for improving child protection issues at the commune level. However, due to limited capacity of group members and resources many action plan have been focused on awareness raising initiatives only. World Vision Cambodia is providing support for some groups in areas where capacity is lacking around technical knowhow of CP issues, action plan development and skills to mobilise resources and funding.



“Before, we thought it was the role and responsibility of the government and the child safe organisations to deal with child protection issues. Through the local CP partner group, we have taken ownership and have now begun to work together. We better understand the root causes. We understand how to look at the data to prioritise. And we can engage as a group – local authorities, child protection committees, children’s group and faith leaders working together— to solve the problems that our children face.”

- CP Partner Group Members

Promising Practices

Facilitation Groups: Within each local CP partner group, a small subset of members is designated to serve as a key facilitation team, tasked to represent the group and work closely with the local community and authority. Children/youth groups from all villages in in the commune nominate two child/youth representatives to sit on the facilitation team, while other representatives are voted in by the child protection committees. The local CP partner group members holding a role in local government are excluded from the facilitation team due to conflict of interest. The facilitation team plays key roles in integrating the action plan into CIP to ensure funding and in completing the CCWC scorecard assessment.

Meaningful engagement of children: In all process of the LCA and creation and integration of the community action plan, child and youth representatives are engaged to provide input and share ideas, including: engaging in data collection processes (FGDs and KIIs), consolidating the data to produce the action plan, engaging and facilitating the community and CCWC scored-card and attending meetings to integrate action plan into Commune Investment Plan (CIP). The children and youth also are engaged in the consultation workshop to develop local level reporting and referral mechanism at the commune level.

Sustainable action plan financing: Linking the the action plan implementation to the financing of the local government helps to ensure the sustainability of financing for the ongoing work of the local CP partner groups. The financing received through integration of the action plan into the local government commune CIP does not go directly to the local group, but rather goes to the local commune to use to implement the action plan items that require funding such as providing social services to families in need. Inclusion of both formal and informal actors in the group (particularly the engagement of the commune clerk and CCWC members) played a significant role in advocating for the CIP funding to be committed for the action plan activities. Likewise, the commune council also advocated at the district and provincial level to ensure specific budget codes were included to support CP activities when preparing the CIP budget plan.

Action plan monitoring: To ensure progress against the action plan, the local CP partner groups conduct regular meetings to monitor the status of the proposed actions and address any challenges or barriers encountered. Each group also keeps record of their progress and shares a regular update with stakeholders outside the group. Through the monitoring process, the groups are also able to address issues of member participation and turnover, and the need to further improve members' understanding of CP issues .

Zambia: Integrating Child Protection Across Sectors through CPMR 1

After completing the local level context analysis, local CP partner groups across Zambia created action plans to address root causes of CP issues that led to activities across a variety of technical sectors. Action plans included activities in both education and WASH, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM). For example, the action of developing recommendations for borehole drilling in school construction and inclusion menstrual hygiene facilities will address the issue of low school attendance — particularly for girls.



CPMR 2: REPORTING AND REFERRAL MECHANISMS

Spotlight on Nepal: A Multi-level Approach for Systems and Services

In CPMR 2, formal and informal actors work together to establish or strengthen a functional community-wide reporting and referral (R&R) mechanism to enable children, caregivers, and other community members to report child protection violations and receive the help they need to address them through a network of identified service providers.

This is different from World Vision Level One incidents, where a World Vision staff member or affiliate recognizes a Level One incident and reports it through the local CPMR 2 R&R mechanism.

In Nepal, both Child Protection Minimum Requirements (CPMR) 1 and 2 have been imbedded in all Sponsorship-funded APs and treated as a non-negotiable component. This prioritisation, alongside WVI Nepal's long-term advocacy for children and ongoing partnering relationship with the Government of Nepal (GON) on issues of child protection has enabled WVI Nepal to support the rapid development of Child Rights Committees (CRC) in 38 of Nepal's 45 municipalities (palika) where World Vision works. Building on the work of the Local-level Context Analyst (LCA) and action planning, all 38 of these CRC groups have also moved forward to establish community-wide Reporting and Referral (R&R) mechanisms.

Unique to Nepal, the timing of the rollout of CPMRs aligned with a national reframing of the government in 2017, and the new government's initiative to implement its Children's Act of 2018. One provision of the Children's Act called for the establishment of government-led, municipal-level CRCs. World Vision was able to influence the structuring of the new groups in alignment with CPMR 2 because of its ongoing relationships with the GON and now serves as partner/member of these groups.

Specific to CPMR 2, as part of the CRC, World Vision has supported the formal and non-formal actors of each municipal-level CRC to develop a functioning R&R mechanism for the purpose of managing child protection incidents related to abuse, neglect, exploitation and any forms of violence. World Vision also collaborated at a broader level, with partners and experts, to provide technical support to the local governments, provincial governments and national GON to review and formulate policies and guidelines, such as case management guidelines related to reporting and referrals.

IMPACT

- **100% palikas** with an existing CRC (38) in World Vision APs have established a functioning R&R mechanism.
- **86%** of reporting and referral mechanisms created by local governments across all of Nepal have met the minimum standard.
- **91.7%** of adolescents know of the presence and services and mechanisms to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children (increased from 2020 baseline of 58.1%).
- **29 municipalities** have a Child Fund established and mobilised for the response and referral of CP incidents.
- The percentage of child protection services users who report increased responsiveness of child protection service providers towards communities increased to **93.3%** from the baseline of 41.4%.

To improve services available to children, World Vision has also helped strengthen the local capacity of actors/ service providers responsible for responding to CP incidents through partnerships with the National Child Rights Council (NCRC) and other expert organizations. World Vision, for example, has helped facilitate the appointment/nomination of Child Welfare Officer (CWOs) focal persons at the municipal level to help make the services/referral efficient at the local level. CWOs are also trained in the mobilisation of the Child Fund to be able to best respond the protection risks and respond the needs of the children through case management.

World Vision Nepal has also been instrumental in helping to put in place the Child Fund for responding to incidents and setting the foundation for the development of a national Child Protection Incident Management System used for tracking and managing reporting, referrals and follow ups.



“As parents, when we face any child protection risks for our children in the community, and the problem cannot be solved immediately at home, we are sure that the local CRC in the ward and municipality will provide necessary assistance to us.” Parent, Achham Area Programme

“If I feel insecure in my community or experience any violence, I know I can inform the local CRC, my Child Club, the Ward Office or the Women and Children’s Department. I can also take support from my guardian and teachers.” Child, Achham Area Programme

Promising Practices

Multi-level approach for systems change: The rollout of CPMRs across the country were well-aligned with the timing of the Government of Nepal's initiative to implement its Children's Act of 2018. The Act, designed to support and protect Nepali children and to safeguard their rights, established a National Child Rights Council (NCRC) to serve as a federal advisory board and made provision for CRCs at local and provincial levels. The GON also provisioned for designated service providers (child welfare officer, social worker and psycho-social counselor) and a Child Fund to support and protect children. Because of World Vision's long-term, and ongoing engagement at national, provincial and local levels it was 'a strategic' time to influence and support the restructuring of the country's child protection system at multiple levels during this transitional time. As a result, much of the CPMR work has influenced the new national and municipal systems, establishing standards, supporting the development of processes, and enabling a rapid rollout of a government-aligned R&R mechanism.

Sustainable financing of the R&R mechanism and services: World Vision Nepal played a role with the national and local government to get the nominal budget for the Child Fund established as provisioned through the Children's Act in 29 municipalities. The mandate of the fund is for children in need of support and protection. For example, if there was a report of a child who had experienced violence and needed emergency services, that child would be recommended to the CRC to receive financial support for the services through the local government from the Child Fund.

Creating and modeling a system for incident tracking: To address a gap in the capability to track CP incidents, World Vision in Nepal developed a Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and dashboard that enabled tracking incident reporting and referrals and monitoring ongoing follow-up across its APs. World Vision uses this data to view incident reports at the AP level, for example, how many cases are open, closed or need to be followed up. Local implementing partners are also given access to this dashboard for tracking purposes. The CPIMS is also shared by World Vision with national and local government and has influenced the Government of Nepal to begin its own process to replicate a nation-wide system for broader use.

Ensuring ongoing case follow up: Beyond ongoing monitoring of data using the CPIMS, case workers and members of the CRC follow up the reported/referred cases with a meeting once every two months to review progress. The CRC use the collected data of at-risk children from all wards and provide support from the municipal level Child Fund.

Meaningful engagement of children: Children have a voice in the R&R mechanism of CPMR 2 through their inclusion as representatives in the CRC (at least one boy and one girl in each CRC) and are called on to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement in the R&R mechanism from the child perspective. Children in APs are also engaged through different programs, such as child rights and protection training, to identify and report any child rights violation incidents through the proper R&R mechanism/channels. Children are engaged in awareness raising of the reporting process within the community and among their peers. Children also have a voice through Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) initiative —one of the major approaches in Nepal to engage children through child congress, media, policy dialogue and advocacy to raise the issues of child rights and services at different government and community levels.

CPMR 3: ADOLESCENT STRENGTHENING INTERVENTIONS

Spotlight on Burundi: *Strategic Integration of Adolescent-Strengthening Interventions*

CPMR 3 focuses on young people (ages 12-18) ensuring World Vision national offices design and implement interventions to include and directly strengthen the life skills and protective skills of adolescent Registered Children (RCs) as well as all young people in the community, including the most vulnerable.

This programming can be integrated within ongoing technical programmes or achieved through the implementation of an adolescent focused CESP intervention such as IMPACT+.

World Vision Burundi has prioritised Child Protection Minimum Requirement (CPMR) 3 and rapidly rolled out the requirement to all its 22 APs by integrating adolescent programming into its 2021-2025 national strategy. This strategic decision recognises the importance of young people to the sustainability of all development outputs alongside the increasing vulnerability of young people in Burundi and the fact that 42% (or 32,860) of the field office's RCs are between 12 and 18 years. The national strategy sets the goal of improving adolescents' livelihoods for a good transition to adulthood and contributing to the Child Well-Being Objective of increasing positive and peaceful relationships between children, their families and communities.

In the first year of the NO strategy implementation and CPMR 3 rollout, World Vision Burundi established 183 IMPACT+ clubs; and in 2023, 368 new clubs were formed. Approximately two thirds of clubs were established in schools, while a third were established through other community partners, mainly targeting out-of-school adolescents. These clubs focus on the priority areas of livelihoods, protective skills and life skills and use the IMPACT+ project model together with World Vision's core economic empowerment approaches including Empowered Worldview (EWW) and Savings for Transformation (S4T). The integration of these approaches helps adolescents break dependencies and envision brighter futures (EWW), while also practically engaging young people in financial literacy and income generating activities (S4T) to help adolescents engage in entrepreneurship. Likewise, the strategic prioritisation of adolescents is driving more technical areas to intentionally integrate adolescent interventions within programming approaches.

As a core element of IMPACT+ (and all CPMR 3 interventions) adolescents participate in a Community Service Learning (CSL) project where they identify and act on issues important in their community. In Burundi, many of these projects to date have been integrated with the work of the field office's priority sectors including: nutritional awareness, hygiene improvement projects, social entrepreneurship projects and environmental protection projects. As an example, 46 adolescent groups became involved in vegetable farming following a

IMPACT

- **5,678** adolescents participated in **183** IMPACT+ clubs in **22** APs in 2021 including 2,572 girls and 3,106 boys.
- Of the participating adolescents, **34%** were World Vision RC ages 12-18.
- As a result of successful CPMR strategic integration, reducing school dropout rates has been further made a priority within the education technical programme.

community-issue mapping process that identified the need to eat more vegetables as the root cause of nutrition issues.

Burundi's strategy also lays out plans for targeting higher numbers of RCs through programming that enhances their well-being such as using interventions including Empowered Worldview, health peer educators and Dare to Discover (D2D) for adolescents who are not part of IMPACT+.



Aline, age 12, facilitates a session on child protection as part of her community's IMPACT+ life skills programming.

IMPACT+ club members identified soil erosion as one of the issues affecting limited arable lands and impacting food production. Under the supervision of communal agronomists, three adolescent groups participated in tree planting reforestation efforts in mountain areas of their communities where uncontrolled erosion was affecting loss of arable land.



“The difference is that the adolescents now have good relationships, good behavior, and they have changed mindset and learnt many things about entrepreneurship, teamwork and livestock. They are now responsible, promoters of peace and human rights. In the community, they see that young people imitate those who are in the IMPACT + club. There is connectedness among peers, respect towards parents and adults, and the young people support one another.” IMPACT+ Club Leader, Gashoho AP

Promising Practices

Mobilising adolescents, including adolescent RC: Adolescents across the programme areas are mobilised for involvement in IMPACT+ through a range of recruitment activities primarily conducted by community facilitators with the support of teachers and partners. Targeted beneficiaries, including adolescents in school and adolescents not in school, were encouraged to join IMPACT+ clubs using messaging about empowering adolescents as agents of change and preparing them for a successful transition to adulthood. To ensure the inclusion of adolescent RCs, parents of identified young people were sensitised on the importance of life skills programming through respected church partners and faith leaders. About 120 RC are also included as the programme targets existing clubs in which RC have been involved before age 12.

Prioritising the most vulnerable: The most vulnerable adolescents in a community, both RC and non-RC, are prioritised to participate in IMPACT+ clubs. As defined by the national office strategy, most vulnerable adolescents include single mothers, young people who have dropped out of schools with no chance to resume, albinos, Batwa adolescents, those living with disability and adolescents functioning as heads of household. These adolescents are identified and targeted through community partners.

Measuring adolescent wellbeing and the impact of CPMR 3: To measure positive change in the life of adolescents, WV Burundi looks at metrics that show improvement in life skills of RC or increase in developmental assets. Global standardised measures are used, including life skills curriculum completion, active adolescent groups and meaningful participation in actions to end violence against children. In addition, in IMPACT+ clubs using S4T, positive change is measured by loans taken and reimbursed. Youth Health Behaviour Surveys are used to measure metrics including income increases from income generating activities and adolescent participation in decision making at household level.

Integrating Technical Programmes: Other complementary technical programmes that are significantly supporting the implementation of CPMR3 are Integrated Health and WASH, Integrated Food and Nutrition and Education and Faith and Development. For example, a peer education approach is being used among adolescents for sexual and reproductive health awareness; club members volunteer in their local reading clubs; and 29 clubs have piloted a nutrition module to create healthy habits that address root causes of anemia.

Listening to adolescent voices: In Burundi, club leaders make decisions about the programme in lieu of a Youth Advisory Council. The voices of adolescents are intentionally sought out at different key moments across their engagement with IMPACT+ such as presenting issues and proposed solutions during annual community review and planning with DME. Young people also guide the development of the CSL project.

Monitoring the participation of RC: Participation of RC is regularly monitored by tracking club members/ participants against RC lists. In some APs, volunteers and caretakers make one-to-one follow-ups with 15 RC. The Sponsorship, Partnership and Projects Supervisor (SPPS) is responsible for CPMR3, and integration of monitoring into each technical programme and grant must show at which level they will contribute to RC in the planned activities. These lists are given to staff to record RC benefitting from the programme.



“ IMPACT+ is helping in addressing adolescents' issues, especially participation and protection. ”



“ Adolescents now have good relationships, good behavior and a changed mindset. They have learned many things about entrepreneurship, teamwork and livestock. They are responsible, promoters of peace and human rights. In the community, they see that young people imitate those who are in the IMPACT + club. There is connectedness among peers, respect towards parents and adults. The adolescents support one another. ”



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