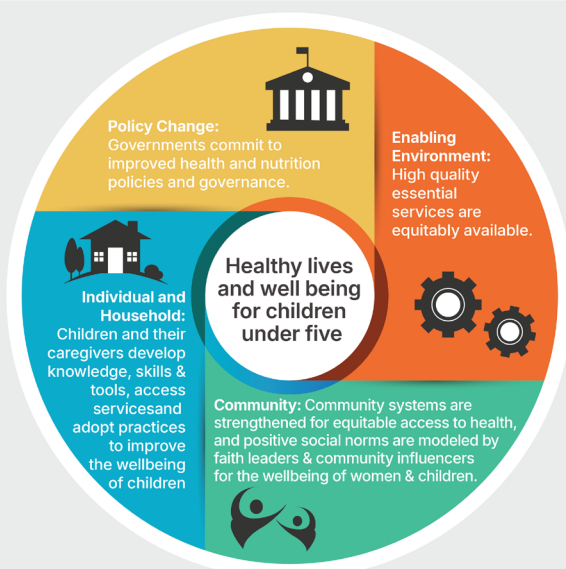


WV EAST ASIA HEALTH & NUTRITION CAPACITY STATEMENT

TACKLING CRITICAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN EAST ASIA

Children across East Asia face significant health and nutrition disparities, with the poorest and most vulnerable bearing the heaviest burden. Children from low-income households are twice as likely to die before age five compared to their wealthier peers, with nearly half of under-five deaths occurring in the newborn period (UNICEF, 2022). Malnutrition remains a critical concern: 21 million children are stunted, 1.1 million suffer from wasting, and 59 million (45%) are at risk of not reaching their full developmental potential due to poor diets (UNICEF, 2024). Maternal mortality also remains high, with 105 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Ensure healthy lives and well being for children under five



Our 360-Degree Approach

In response, World Vision East Asia implements a 360-degree approach to health and nutrition, addressing the root causes at every level—from individual behaviors to systemic barriers. By working closely with families, communities, institutions, and national health systems, we drive sustainable change in practices and the social norms that influence them. Our long-term, community-based presence enables us to promote lasting improvements in maternal and child nutrition, ensuring all children have the opportunity to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential.

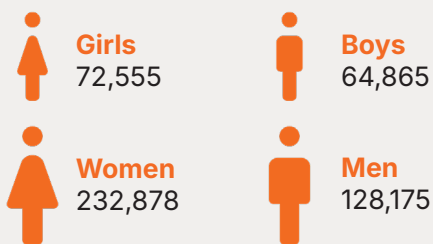
The “360 Degrees” core development Approach (<https://www.wvi.org/health/health-nutrition-sector-approach-2020-2030>)

WHY PARTNER WITH WORLD VISION EAST ASIA ON HEALTH & NUTRITION?

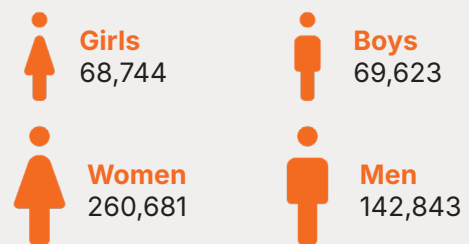
- **From Grassroots to Global Influence:** We work directly with communities, elevating their voices to influence national and global health agendas, ensuring local relevance and global impact.
- **Evidence-Based, Proven Models:** Our interventions are grounded in data and years of experience. We address root causes, strengthen local health systems, and drive long-term, measurable outcomes.
- **Integrated, Multi-Sectoral Approach:** Health and nutrition don't stand alone. We integrate WASH, livelihoods, and child protection to support children's well-being and development holistically.
- **Behavior Change for Lasting Impact:** We go beyond aid delivery and focus on sustained social and behavior change. We empower caregivers, health cadres, and community health volunteers to foster local ownership and accountability.
- **Reliable, Long-Term Presence:** We are there before, during, and after crises—building resilience, supporting recovery, and maintaining trust in the communities we serve.
- **Driving Policy and Systems Change:** We engage decision-makers to influence policies and investments that scale impact and secure healthier futures for children.

OUR IMPACT:

Nutrition 2024 Reach: **498,473**



Health 2024 Reach: **541,891**



TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CHILDHOOD MALNUTRITION AND ILLNESS

World Vision East Asia delivers holistic, evidence-based solutions to combat childhood malnutrition and illness, focusing on long-term impact rather than short-term aid. We address root causes by working at every level: household, community, and health system.

1. Empowering Families

Our deep household-level reach enables targeted support for vulnerable children. Through community health workers and proven models like Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH), we equip caregivers to prepare nutritious meals with local ingredients, promoting healthy growth in young children. Behavior change among parents and caregivers is at the heart of our success.



Since 2020, **World Vision in Laos** has provided personalized counselling to over 3,000 pregnant women and mothers, promoting healthy practices during pregnancy and early childhood. This support has contributed to improved birth outcomes and early child development. Complementing these efforts, outreach clinics have expanded access to vital services—including vaccinations, vitamin A supplementation, and deworming—in underserved communities.

Since 2012, **World Vision Việt Nam** has implemented the Positive Deviance/Hearth (PDH) model in 20 districts across 8 provinces, improving the health and nutrition of 10,676 underweight children. By leveraging locally driven solutions and community engagement, PDH empowers families to adopt sustainable nutrition practices and achieve lasting behavioral change.

In 2024, through the Nourished Delta project in **Myanmar**, World Vision reached 7,771 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under five with targeted Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages and support. Additionally, 661 pregnant and lactating women received 180 micronutrient tablets each, and 4,204 children aged 6–59 months received 120 sachets of micronutrient powder, helping to combat hidden hunger and support healthy growth during early childhood.

In **Cambodia**, World Vision introduced a grandmother-inclusive model to strengthen caregiving for young children. As of September 2023, 393 groups involving 7,613 grandmothers are supported by 73 volunteers, reaching 11,855 children under five through regular monthly sessions.

2. Mobilizing Communities

We engage local leaders, health committees, and faith actors to shift harmful norms and promote positive practices. Our Channels of Hope and Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) approaches strengthen accountability and drive community-led solutions aligned with global health standards.

In 2021, more than 68,000 mothers, fathers, and caregivers in **Lao PDR** gained essential knowledge to care for their children—delivered by Kongchai and over 350 village health volunteers trained by World Vision.

World Vision's Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programs empowered over 15,555 women through mother groups to promote key health and nutrition practices in **Cambodia**. These groups equipped caregivers to improve family well-being, resulting in the screening of 28,580 children under five for malnutrition. Of these, 1,263 moderate to severe acute malnutrition cases were identified and referred for immediate care. This integrated, community-based approach is helping to reduce maternal and child mortality and strengthen overall.

3. Strengthening health systems

World Vision strengthens community-health facility ties by raising awareness, training health workers, and promoting in-home care to improve maternal and child health. In 2024, 725 health facilities were upgraded across seven field offices with clean water, equipment, and safe birthing spaces. In Vietnam, 98.4% of caregivers reported satisfaction with recent child health services.

We supported 1,844 health mother groups and empowered communities to claim their health rights. In Cambodia, WV launched the country's first Baby Friendly Health Centre (BFHC) in 34 centres, training 'Lactation Counselors' to promote breastfeeding and support post-partum mothers.

In **Vietnam**, our local advocacy efforts contributed to increased national budget allocations for rural nutrition programs, directly improving access to essential health services in remote areas. This advocacy also ensured that successful programs, like PDH, were scaled to reach more vulnerable children. Empowering communities to take control of their health ensures that the changes we help implement are sustainable and scalable.

In 2024, World Vision supported the **Cambodian** government in monitoring the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. In partnership with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance, we advocated expanding the Baby-Friendly Health Centre (BFHC) program to 45 facilities. World Vision provided evidence of program success, contributed to national guideline development, and, in February 2024, convened a dissemination workshop to advocate for integrating BFHC staff training into government budgeting and cost planning.

Between February 2024 and March 2025, with the support of UNICEF and USAID, World Vision launched the Community Health & Nutrition System Strengthening Project in **Laos**. The initiative aimed to empower children, adolescents, pregnant women, and families with the knowledge and skills needed to demand and contribute to their own health and well-being. As a result, the project has positively impacted the lives of approximately 7,100 children under the age of two, 2,700 pregnant women, and 20,500 adolescents, contributing to healthier communities and more resilient health systems.

4. Preventing and managing childhood illness

Tackling tuberculosis, HIV and malaria

Partnering with the Global Fund and national governments, we implement awareness, testing, referral, and treatment programs to combat TB in **Myanmar** and HIV, TB, and malaria in **Thailand**. Our integrated, community-first approach brings essential care to the most vulnerable.

World Vision has established 11 Border Malaria Health Education and Counseling Centers, offering rapid malaria testing, referrals, education, prevention tools, and follow-up care for migrant populations. In 2024, **World Vision Thailand** facilitated testing and referrals for over 45,000 migrants and distributed 36,250 mosquito nets in migrant communities. Additionally, **World Vision Thailand** raised awareness about tuberculosis prevention and basic health among more than 10,600 migrants, referring 8,398 individuals at risk for screening and diagnosis of tuberculosis.

Fighting diarrheal disease with water, sanitation and hygiene

Diarrheal disease significantly contributes to malnutrition and child mortality by hindering nutrient absorption. World Vision works with communities and local authorities to promote hygiene and improve water, sanitation, and governance systems to combat this threat. In Cambodia, 26% of children under five with diarrhoea received effective treatment (Annual Impact Measurement, 2024), and in 2023, over 40,017 people received sanitation facilities.

Since 2018, **World Vision Myanmar** has their Water and Sanitation project in Kachin state that targets 22 villages including Lum Zawng 's village. As of September 2022, the project has provided 13 hand-dug wells and 2 shallow tube wells, 5 gravity flows and a 2,000-gal water tank, 476 fly-proof family latrines and 11 institutional latrines, 1,577 water storage containers, and 26 LifeStraw for the families and the communities covering 4,336 people living in 869 households.



5. Strengthening food security and resilience

We support families facing hunger by building resilient, sustainable livelihoods through local value chains, natural farming methods, and water harvesting. Our programs help communities adapt to climate shocks and ensure year-round access to nutritious food.

In 2023, ongoing conflict and economic instability left 19% of the population facing acute food insecurity in **Myanmar**, putting children's health and development at serious risk. World Vision responded with an integrated approach combining nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience-building. We supported 129 savings groups to improve access to food and essential goods while promoting sustainable farming practices. As a result, 12,205 people increased their food security and improved dietary diversity.

In **Cambodia**, climate-smart agriculture initiatives have enabled smallholder farmers to overcome erratic weather patterns and improve their crop yields. These programs, implemented in collaboration with local governments, have directly increased household income and food security for thousands of families.

As of 2023, **World Vision Myanmar** has supported an estimated 11,700 people from 27 communities in Waingmaw township and 2 communities in Chipwi township through the general cash distribution programme. Additionally, approximately 600 beneficiaries, including pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children under 2 years old, received blended food to address their nutritional needs.

RESEARCH-DRIVEN IMPACT IN HEALTH & NUTRITION

At World Vision, research and evidence guides our programming and drives innovation. Our applied research strengthens the effectiveness of our interventions and contributes to the global evidence base on child health and nutrition.

Published Research:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH): Research in Cambodia (2018–2020) demonstrated the PDH model's success in reducing malnutrition and sustaining child rehabilitation through community-driven behavior change. |
| 2 | Grandmother Approach: This model targets influential caregivers and improves childcare practices and nutrition outcomes among young children, especially in skip-generation households. |

Discover how research and evidence shape our impact. Access our latest studies and insights [here](#):



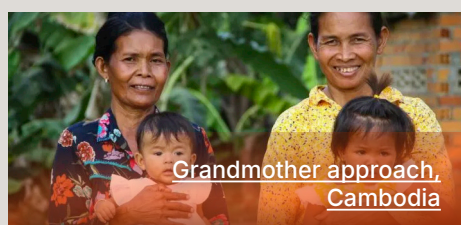
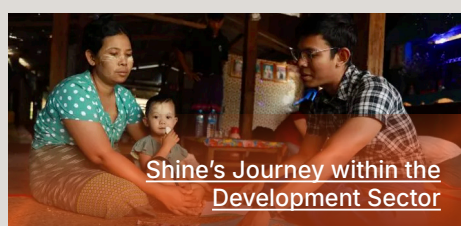
Ongoing Research:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Growth Monitoring & Promotion (GMP): Piloted in Laos and Zambia to strengthen Community Health Workers capacity. (ongoing research) |
| 2 | Laser Device for Child Measurement: A study in Vietnam assesses digital solutions for more accurate, community-level growth tracking. (ongoing research) |

SDGs contributed to:



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



IMPACT PARTNERS



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