



CHILD PROTECTION & PARTICIPATION



Capacity
Statement

Our Context

World Vision is a global humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

Millions of children in Africa face violence at home, in schools, institutions, within their communities, and online. Violence Against Children (VAC) in Africa is a complex issue influenced by various socio-cultural norms, values, practices, power dynamics, and societal structures.

According to the Africa Statement for the Global Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children, 2024 by UNICEF and WHO, in some countries in Africa, 30–40% of adolescent girls are victims of sexual violence before the age of 15. In the East and Southern Africa regions, 32% of girls are married before the age of 18. This includes approximately 17.3 million from Ethiopia, 1.4 million from Somalia (where the prevalence rate is 35%), and 1.3 million from South Sudan (where the prevalence rate is 52%). Additionally, among girls aged 0 to 14 years, 50.6% have undergone some form of female genital mutilation or cutting, and 27.3% of girls aged 0 to 4 years have also experienced this practice.

As reported in the UNFPA and UNICEF Cross-Border Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in East Africa Policy Brief-2022, the last decade saw an increasing trend

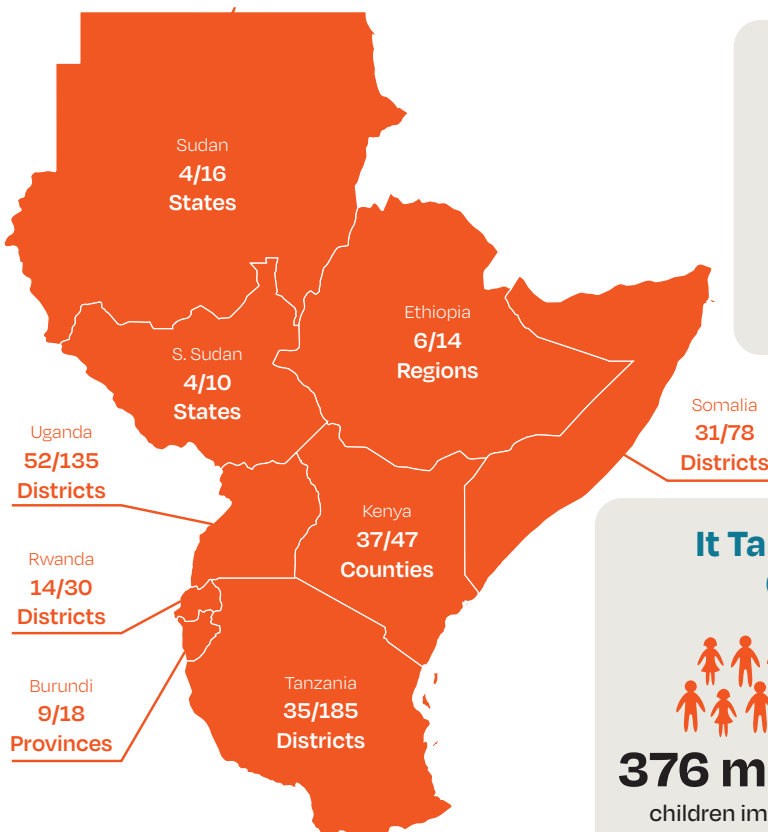
towards maintaining FGM practice through medicalisation and cross-border FGM. Cross-border FGM has emerged as a new trend that threatens the gains made towards ending FGM. It is estimated that 50 million girls and women who are affected are from the East African border areas in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Online forms of violence are a VAC issue that has arisen with increased technology uptake on the continent in the past decade.

The wave of attacks on civilians, including children, in parts of the continent by groups designated as terrorists, has become a grave child rights challenge. In some contexts in East Africa, non-state armed groups continue to commit grave violations against children, including killing, maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, rape, and other forms of sexual violence.

There is a need to establish confidential, child-friendly complaint and reporting systems. These should include counselling services when necessary and connect both informal and formal mechanisms to address the needs of children, particularly those who are vulnerable. The role of parents, caregivers and community groups including faith leaders, cannot be over-emphasised in the prevention and response to VAC in the region.

Operational Areas in East Africa & Our Impact



In 2024 throughout East Africa,

we reached
1.65 million
children directly through activities aimed at mitigating violence against children.

we supported
527,000
children affected by various types of child violence to access reporting & referral mechanisms

**It Takes the World To End Child Violence
Global Campaign (2017 - 2023)**

376 million
children impacted

2.6 million
children meaningfully participating in the campaign

1700
policy changes
including 583 policies related to increasing funding to address ending violence against children

Our Niche & Approach

World Vision (WV) partners with Child Protection and Advocacy groups, consisting of formal and informal partners from across the ecology of the child. Co-creating, coordinating and implementing interventions that focus on five areas of change:

Transforming attitudes, norms and behaviours of children, parents, faith communities and community members to address VAC.

WV has a track record of partnering with faith and community leaders and members for social behaviour change to tackle violence against children including; child marriage, FGM, GBV, child labour and child neglect among others.

Strengthening Services & Support Mechanisms along with the Capacity, Coordination, & Collaboration of Formal & Informal Actors to Prevent, Protect & Respond.

WV works to strengthen reporting and referral mechanisms in a bid to ensure all VAC cases are reported and children/survivors are provided adequate services to restore their lives and dignity. Child protection informal and formal service providers have been supported for enhanced VAC reporting, response and prevention services across nine countries.

Addressing other root causes through multi-sectorial interventions.

WV supports local community child protection groups to identify drivers to child protection threats in their context and develop action plans to address drivers of abuse, neglect, exploitation, harmful practices, and various forms

of violence. One of the key integration points is on social protection and economic empowerment where through WV's evidenced-based economic models including Savings for Transformation and Empowered Worldview which supports the economic strengthening of households for enhanced child well-being outcomes.

Improving laws and accountability through advocacy at all levels and citizen voice in the quality and provision of services by service providers & local duty bearers.

WV facilitates children, young people and communities to hold duty bearers accountable for service delivery and have their experiences and opinions shape policies and laws. For example, in Kenya, WV's Celebrating Families Model influenced the national caregiver programme by the Government of Kenya inspired by testimonials from WV Kenya's programme on positive parenting.

Empowering girls and boys with life skills, resilience, psychosocial well-being and supporting them to be influential protection actors in their environment.

WV has been partnering with girls and boys in contributing to prevention and response to VAC issues in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi with a range of evidence-based project models.

Child Protection in Emergencies

WV works across the humanitarian-fragile-development-peacebuilding nexus. In partnership with communities, local and international actors, WV has supported children in fragile and humanitarian contexts through provision of child protection in emergencies services such as Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Family Tracing and Reunification, child-friendly spaces integrated with education in emergencies interventions and supporting children involved with armed groups and conflict in countries affected by conflict.

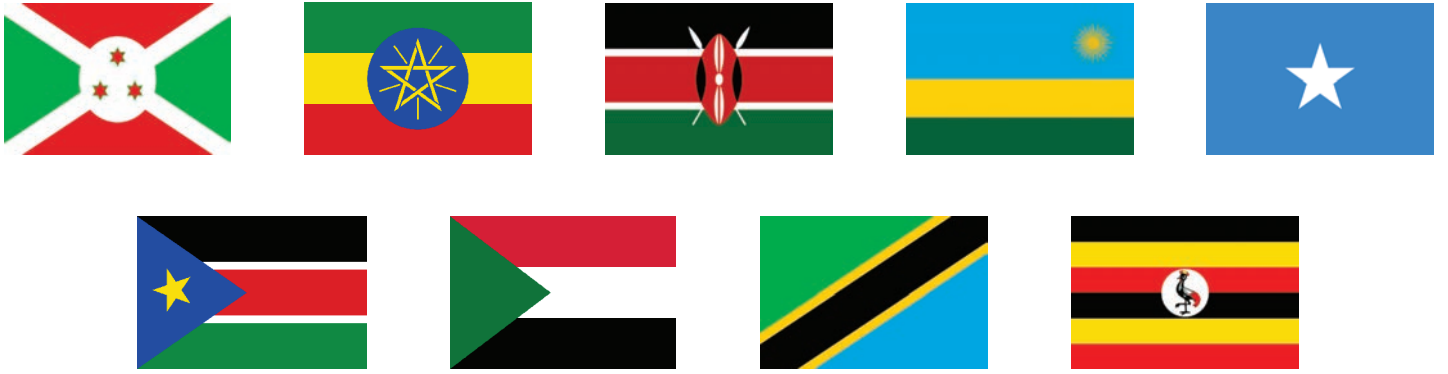
Child Participation & Adolescence Engagement

At World Vision, we believe that child participation is both a right entitled to all girls and boys, as well as a critical element of our child-focused agenda. At the regional and country levels, WV engages with children to inform needs assessments, designing of programmes and informing senior leadership teams and boards decisions. World Vision East Africa Children Advisory Group comprises of children who are elected through government structures to represent opinions and experiences of their peers.

WV partners with adolescents to strengthen their resilience through life skills and livelihoods interventions for self-reliance and smooth transition to adulthood.

Our Partners

World Vision collaborates with partners who significantly contribute to our work. Key partners include:



World Vision is a relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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